



Ryan Fairchild  
ASSOCIATE

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Ryan's diverse practice includes particular emphasis on esports. He represents players, influencers and content creators, and other stakeholders in contracts, licensing, intellectual property, corporate matters, and more. Ryan also represents domestic and international clients in contracting, intellectual property, and corporate matters, as well as in state and federal litigation. Ryan focuses on providing efficient results and excellent service.

## ESPORTS

Ryan represents esports players, influencers, content creators, and other stakeholders in negotiating and drafting contracts, structuring licensing deals, developing brand protection strategies, addressing corporate matters, and more. Ryan is an industry leader in representing top Twitch streamers as well as competitive players across Valorant, CS:GO, League of Legends, Dota 2, Fortnite, the fighting game community, and others. His passion for esports derives from being a lifelong gamer who plays many of the games at the forefront of esports. Ryan understands the esports and video game influencer ecospheres and their dynamics, and he leverages this understanding and his legal expertise to help clients address any challenge they might face.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COUNSEL & LITIGATION

Ryan counsels clients on a variety of intellectual property matters, including copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. He works with companies and individuals to properly identify and protect their intellectual property rights. Ryan also litigates intellectual property infringement and trade secrets misappropriation lawsuits in state and federal courts when necessary.

## DOMESTIC & CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS

Ryan represents businesses of all sizes in a wide range of corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, financing transactions, and lending transactions. He drafts and negotiates relevant contracts and organizational documents. He also works with start-up companies on entity formation and venture capital financing.

Ryan also represents domestic and international companies on cross-border transactional issues, such as regulatory compliance, intellectual property matters, and tax liability. He is an avid traveler and has a deep appreciation for international cultures and commerce.

## FEDERAL LITIGATION

A former district court law clerk, Ryan knows the federal court system inside and out. He represents clients in a wide range of complex business, intellectual property, white-collar criminal, and constitutional matters.

## EXPERIENCE

Challenging a Contentious Last Will and Testament

## SERVICES

Corporate & Business

Complex Business Litigation

Entertainment

Esports

Federal Litigation

Intellectual Property

International & Cross Border

Litigation

## CREDENTIALS

### Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable James C. Fox, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 2014-2016

### Honors & Recognitions

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" for Commercial Litigation and Entertainment & Sports Law (2022)

### Education

**University of North Carolina School of Law**, J.D., 2014, with honors; Staff member, *North Carolina Law Review*; Article and Note Editor, *First Amendment Law Review*

**Brigham Young University**, B.A., 2010; Writer, *The BYU Political Review*

### Admissions

North Carolina

U.S. District Court for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of North Carolina

### Languages

Spanish

## PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Member, Board of Directors, North American League of Legends Championship Series Players Association (2021-present)

Attorney Editor-in-Chief, Esports Bar Association's Publications (2019-present)

Co-Chair, North Carolina Bar Association Sports & Entertainment Law Section Ethics Committee (2019-present)

Member, North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center Advisory Board (2018-present)

Member, Board of Directors, Children's Museum of Wilmington (2017-2019)

Member, WHQR Community Advisory Board (2017-2019)

Member, Board of Directors, Young Professionals Committee, A Safe Place (2017-2018)

## ABOUT ME

The first item Ryan ever saved his allowance for was a Sega Genesis. His first job was at Sunnyvale Golfland, a mini-golf and arcade where he played fighting games against some of the top players in the world. He has built gaming PCs and continues to pursue his love of gaming as part of his practice of law as he works with esports players, influencers, agencies, and others.

Ryan's varied interests in the law derive from his varied interests outside of it. A double major in Economics and Spanish Translation with a deep interest in history, theology, myriad entertainment media, cooking, and more, Ryan has found that diverse inputs and an open mind lead to cross-discipline connections and creative solutions to complex problems. In doing so, he takes a holistic approach to clients' needs and goals.

Ryan and his wife, Angie, are experienced and seasoned travelers. They have lived on four continents, working in different industries on each one, and traveled a fifth. Their most recent international trip, a tour of Mexico, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands, was a chance to get their sons hooked on the travel bug. They have since been joined by a daughter and regularly camp and travel the United States.

When at home, Ryan can often be found spending time outside with his family, reading a book, or watching or playing video games.

## NEWSROOM

### News

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Successfully Challenge Will of Wilmington Man  
08.19.2021

72 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 Guide  
*The Best Lawyers in America*®, 08.19.2021

Ryan Fairchild Named to NA LCS Players Association Board of Directors  
05.27.2021

Ryan Fairchild Quoted in Esports Insider Article  
*Esports Insider*, 01.22.2021

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Quoted in Article on Esports  
01.14.2021

### Speaking Engagements

Ryan Fairchild Speaks on Panel for Twitch Women's Alliance  
05.25.2021

Ryan Fairchild Presents on Esports Law  
11.18.2020

Ryan Fairchild Presents Esports Litigation Updates  
10.07.2020

Ryan Fairchild Participates in NCBA Expert Series CLE  
06.04.2020

Ryan Fairchild to Serve on Panel at Sports Lawyers Association Event  
10.29.2019

### Publications

VTubing: Legal Protections and Pitfalls  
07.14.2021

The Business of Being a Pro Gamer: Four Ways to Protect Your Value  
03.08.2018

Understanding New Attacks on Section 230 Immunity  
*Westlaw Journal* 03.16.2017