

Business First of Louisville - April 14, 2008  
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# BUSINESS FIRST

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## Estate of Affairs: Attorney C. Carter Ruml pairs small-business advice with his estate-planning expertise

Business First of Louisville - by [Ed Green](#) Business First Staff Writer

### C. Carter Ruml

Job: Associate, Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP, since August 2004

Practice focus: Estate planning and business law

Age: 30

On the side: He is an assistant instructor of law at Vanderbilt University Law School

Education: Bachelor's degree in public affairs, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University, 2000; juris doctorate, Stanford University, 2004

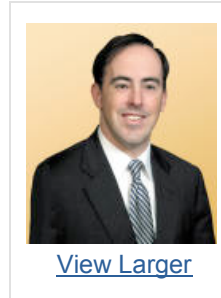
Hometown: Worcester, Mass.

Wife: Sarah Ruml

Children: Daughter, Hollings, 3, son, Whit, 1

Memberships: Member of Kentucky and Florida bar associations; vice chairman of the Clifton Center Board of Directors

Church: St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, Prospect



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### How does your focus on estate planning relate to your business practice?

"It's not simply estate planning and estate administration. It's also a lot of representing closely held businesses and their owners. I'm in the middle of a group (at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP) that does extensive estate planning and administration, and that's all we do.

"We all tend to have some specialties within the group, and mine really has to do with business planning and representing business owners with respect to their estate planning."

### What drew you to that practice?

"Before I started doing estate planning work full time, I was a (mergers and acquisitions) and securities lawyer at Wyatt, and I had a broad base with business law issues. I worked on a number of private company M&A issues, and the estate planning issues were very pervasive. They were everywhere.

"I began to realize I really like working with family businesses, with closely held businesses, and that it would be very interesting to represent them in a way that was focused on their estate planning."

### You didn't grow up here or go to school here, so how did you end up in Louisville?

After meeting his wife while the two were students at Princeton University and living a year in New York, the Massachusetts native moved to Louisville "because my wife is from Louisville, and I came to Louisville with her before I went to law school" at Stanford University and came back during summer breaks to work at Wyatt.

"She's got significant ties here, and it made a lot of sense for us to come back here. We knew very early that this was probably the place we were going to be after law school."

### Did it turn out to be a good place for you professionally?

"This is a great place to be a lawyer who works with owners of family businesses. ... Louisville is a town with a really significant population of very successful closely held businesses."

### **Why are you licensed to practice in Florida?**

"We have a lot of 'snowbird' clients who have significant ties here in Kentucky but they moved down to Florida -- at first for a few months in the winter time and then it tends to be more and more.

"They find that it is often convenient not to change their lawyer as they spend more and more time in Florida. We can coordinate both their Kentucky as well as their Florida estate plan.

"I would say the Florida aspect of my practice is about a quarter of my practice, and it's a growing part. It's really been a fun challenge. It's not so fun taking the bar exam in Tampa in July, but it really has been a fun, interesting and worthwhile thing to do."

### **Since you studied public affairs in college, did you ever consider a career in public service?**

"I always had a broad-based interest in business, and I really enjoy politics. It's almost a substitute for following sports really closely. I follow politics very closely, but I don't really think of myself as having a desire to run for any elected office.

"I volunteer for campaigns from time to time. And I'm very interested in politics. I have a lot of political friends. But if they want to do the running instead of me, that's just fine."

### **Outside work, what do you like to do?**

"I love gardening with my wife and children. But the activity that I enjoy the most would be rowing. I skull with the Louisville Rowing Club. I'm actually training now to do some racing in their double skulls with friends.

"... I row between 40,000 and 60,000 meters per week, both on the water and off the water. And I really love it. It's a really great combination of balance and timing and really focused intensity. And that is something that I find very interesting."

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