



GARY FITZPATRICK

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business Tax Planning

Business Representation

Business Succession Planning

Mergers & Acquisitions

Real Estate Transactions

ABOUT

Gary Fitzpatrick is a partner with Brown & Streza, LLP and co-leads the firm's mergers and acquisitions practice. He brings a rare combination of tax and estate planning experience, in-house operational leadership, and transactional dealmaking that few M&A lawyers can offer.

Gary began his legal career representing high-net-worth individuals, families, and closely held businesses in sophisticated tax, succession, and estate planning matters. Early in his career, he helped establish the first Orange County office of Freeman, Freeman & Smiley, where he advised business owners and families on income tax planning, wealth transfer strategies, governance, and business succession.

Gary later transitioned from private practice into executive leadership roles, serving as General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer for multiple companies. Working directly with founders, executives, and boards of directors, he gained firsthand experience managing the operational, financial, and strategic challenges businesses face as they grow, acquire companies, raise capital, and prepare for liquidity events.

Today, Gary leverages both perspectives in his practice at Brown & Streza, working closely with the firm's tax, trust, and estate planning attorneys on sophisticated planning strategies for business owners while also handling the transaction itself. His experience allows him to help clients not only execute transactions but also design and implement the tax-efficient structures that maximize and preserve wealth before and after a sale. That combination also means Gary brings more than legal analysis to a deal: having sat on the other side of the table as an operator, he helps clients weigh the practical business decisions a transaction inevitably raises, guiding them hands-on through the process in a way that protects both the deal and the business itself.

Gary regularly advises clients on business sales and acquisitions, corporate governance, pre-transaction tax planning, succession planning, and other transformative business transactions. His clients span a variety of industries, including healthcare, technology, manufacturing, financial services, insurance, and real estate. Whether a matter calls for a straightforward transaction or one that also requires sophisticated succession and estate planning, Gary works hand-in-hand with the firm's broader tax and private client team to make sure every angle is covered.

Gary earned his Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with an emphasis in International Finance, from the University of Southern California.

Outside the office, Gary enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, working out, surfing, and coaching his son's special needs baseball team, which he has done for more than 20 years.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Brown & Streza LLP, Irvine, California
Partner, 2022-Present

Stock Market Mentor & Option Market Mentor, Trabuco Canyon, California
Chief Legal and Operating Officer/Owner, 2009-2021

Surfside Ventures, LLC, Laguna Niguel, California
General Counsel, 2013-2020

Trancas Capital LLC, Aliso Viejo, California
General Counsel, 2004-2013

Palace Entertainment, Newport Beach, California
General Counsel, 2000-2004

Freeman Freeman & Smiley, LLP, Irvine, California
Associate Attorney, 1997-2000

Voorhees Knable Pettler Miller & Freeman, Torrance, California
Associate Attorney, 1994-1997

Juris Doctor, **University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law**, Sacramento, California, 1994

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration with an emphasis in International Finance, **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, California, 1990

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

LightZ of Hope | The Zachary Woodard Foundation — Founding Board Member, 2019-Present

Challenger Little League — Manager and Coach, 2002-Present

FUSION Group — Former Member

ProVisors — Host of Irvine Spectrum Group and Member

Orange County Bar Association, Business & Corporate Law, Trusts & Estates, Real Estate Law Sections — Member

Challenger Pop Warner — Coach, 2010-2016

California Attractions and Parks Association — Founding Board Member, 2003-2004

Planned Giving Round Table of Orange County — Former Member