

No-Fear Tax Planning and Preparation

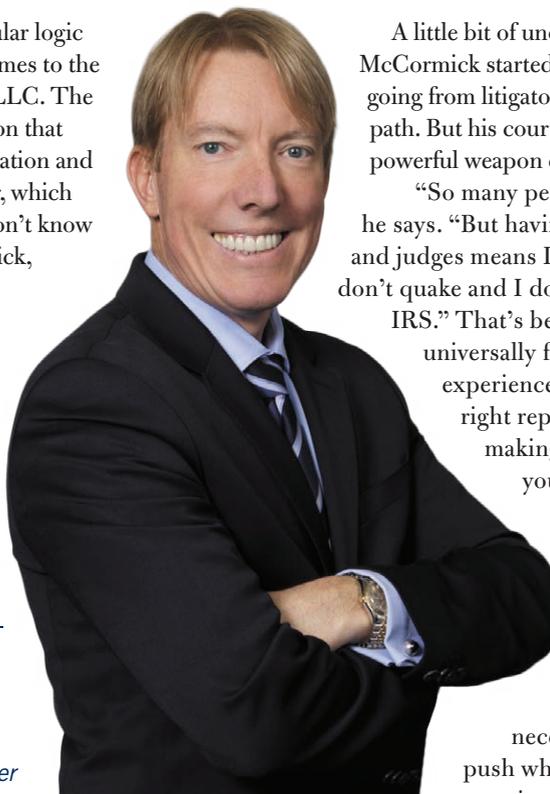
McCormick & Friman LLC

Chicken? Or egg? It's a kind of circular logic that can also be applied when it comes to the success of McCormick & Friman LLC. The law firm features a successful tax law division that specializes in both tax planning and preparation and audit defense. One side builds up the other, which then further builds up the first, until you don't know which came first, says Michael T. McCormick, managing partner.

"The audit work we do gives us greater insight into the IRS that we can incorporate into our tax planning and preparation," he says. "Or maybe it's that all the tax planning and preparation we do helps us build strategies that are useful when an audit client needs representation against the IRS. Either way, our clients benefit."

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– Michael T. McCormick, Managing Partner
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A little bit of unorthodox training helps as well. McCormick started his career as a litigator and says that going from litigator to tax attorney is an unusual career path. But his courtroom experience has proven to be a powerful weapon during an audit defense.

"So many people are intimidated by the IRS," he says. "But having argued cases in front of juries and judges means I've built up quite a thick skin. I don't quake and I don't cave just because they're the IRS." That's because, while audits are almost universally feared, McCormick knows from experience fear is unnecessary. "With the right representation, an audit is only about making things right, not about punishing you for mistakes you might have made," he says.

After almost 30 years of practicing tax law, the firm has found the perfect middle ground when it comes to tax planning, says McCormick. "We're conservative when it's necessary, but we're not afraid to push where it's possible to push. Our experience tells us where the line is, and we'll butt right up against it without going past it. In this high-tax environment, good tax planning can be the difference that can allow a small firm to meet the next payroll. Tax planning is critical to the success of any business."

In addition to tax law, the firm also handles business law and real estate law. "We have a wealth of diverse attorney experience," says McCormick. "As a result, we can offer the range of legal counsel found at larger firms with the traditional small-firm attention to detail and service."

Smart. Diverse. Aggressive.

McCormick & Friman's tax department is staffed with more than 20 tax professionals, including six attorneys who specialize in tax law and several CPAs with extensive backgrounds in tax. McCormick says the firm doesn't hire just attorneys or CPAs. "We hire brains, whether their backgrounds are in law or accounting. And we utilize those brains to aggressively pursue and protect client goals with intelligent, innovative and honest advice."



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