



Shauna Vernal

Special Counsel

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“I approach my practice with a relationship-first model, leveraging my experience as a strategic, inhouse legal advisor to provide practical and efficient legal advice that supports the clients’ success, is directly relevant to the business, and is valuable. I strive to provide the partnership with outside counsel that I longed for in my inhouse roles, a creative and thoughtful first point of contact who, with the business in mind, can answer the question or scope the project and suggest the best path to a solution.”

Shauna Vernal is a seasoned legal executive with more than 25 years of experience executing global and domestic transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, corporate governance, securities, regulatory compliance, litigation management, financial reporting compliance, and public and shareholder relations management. She has a proven track record as a trusted technology and intellectual property tactician, with broad experience ranging from product development to cloud solutions, online services, and IP protection. Shauna’s clients are from varied industries, from startups to mature, public companies, with a focus on tech, AI, and highly regulated healthcare and healthcare tech, life sciences tech, financial institutions, and fintech.

Shauna’s goal is to understand her clients’ successes, opportunities, and pain points to become a creative and effective strategic partner in finding the most efficient path to addressing legal and business matters. She also helps clients manage large teams of internal and external resources to efficiently accomplish major strategic objectives across multiple, diverse groups and in heavily matrixed environments.

Over the span of Shauna’s practice, she has served as CLO of two public companies (taking one public) and two private companies. In some of her recent roles, she has led legal, compliance, corporate governance, equity, regulatory, privacy, intellectual property, immigration, human resources, strategy and M&A, and risk management matters for SAAS healthcare technology companies. Shauna has 11 years of experience in strategic positions within the Microsoft corporate, external and legal affairs team, and has also worked in the heavily regulated banking and fintech industries, including serving as CLO of a publicly traded commercial, regional bank.

Education

J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 1994

B.A., California Lutheran University, 1991

Bar Admissions

Washington, 1994

Oregon, 1995

Washington, DC, 2019

Specialties:

- Mergers & Acquisitions, Securities, Corporate Development & Strategy
- Sophisticated Commercial Transactions, Contracts, Strategic Deals
- Healthcare, HIPAA, Privacy, Data Security, and Financial Regulatory Compliance
- SAAS, IAAS, Cloud Solutions, Healthcare Tech, FinTech, AI and Privacy
- Human Resources, People Coaching and Management
- Intellectual Property
- Strategic Executive Leadership

Professional Activities

- Pacific Coast Banking School, Executive Student Advisor, 2000-2012
- Washington State Bar Association, Member
- Oregon State Bar Association, Member
- District of Columbia Bar Association, Member

Civic Activities

- California Lutheran University School of Management, Dean's Executive Council, Member, 2022-present
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Member, 2025-present
- Monroe/Sky Valley YMCA, Former Board Member
- Big Sisters of King County, Former Board Member
- MSNBC.com, Former Board Member

Recognition & Honors

- Microsoft Management Bench Program Graduate