

Jazz A Hampton

COUNSEL



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Practice Groups

Business & Commercial
Business & Commercial Litigation
Construction & Real Estate
Intellectual Property
Torts & Products Liability

Overview

Jazz Hampton is a corporate attorney and experienced litigator who advises growth-stage companies, nonprofit organizations, and mission-driven enterprises on commercial transactions, corporate governance, compliance, risk management, and business disputes. Drawing on deep general counsel experience, substantial business litigation background, and hands-on business-building perspective, he helps clients align legal strategy with business priorities so they can scale responsibly, reduce friction in commercialization, and manage risk without slowing momentum.

Jazz's practice is shaped by leadership roles spanning both law and operations. As co-founder, CEO, and General Counsel of TurnSignal in Minneapolis, he led the company's legal strategy and operational growth for a technology platform providing real-time legal guidance to drivers during roadside interactions and related legal matters. In that role, he worked at the intersection of product development, regulatory compliance, privacy, and enterprise risk, while also supporting commercial strategy and investor relationships. Jazz brings that combined legal and business perspective to his work as an advisor to startups and growing businesses, helping founders and leadership teams make informed decisions, manage risk, and build for long-term growth. He also taught Entrepreneurial Finance at the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business, helping entrepreneurs and future business leaders understand financing and capital-formation fundamentals.

Clients rely on Jazz as GC-level counsel for expanding technology platforms and consumer-facing businesses, particularly where product innovation must be balanced with regulatory, privacy, and litigation risk. He has led small legal teams and advises on commercial agreements, vendor and licensing arrangements, and national rollouts—including developing a 50-state compliance plan for a consumer product retailer's launch. His work includes drafting, negotiating, and enforcing commercial contracts designed to protect business objectives while minimizing liability. Jazz also brings significant courtroom and dispute-resolution experience from complex contract, construction, commercial, and business litigation matters, including drafting and analyzing discovery, deposing experts, and arguing dispositive and non-dispositive motions. Across matters, he is known for translating legal risk into clear, actionable guidance for executives and stakeholders and for structuring and prioritizing high-value transactions and multi-matter caseloads.

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Beyond his client work, Jazz is a committed advocate for justice, equity, mentorship, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the legal profession. He serves on the boards of The Minneapolis Foundation, Catholic Charities Twin Cities, and the Great North Innocence Project.

In recognition of his leadership in Minnesota's entrepreneurial community, Jazz was appointed by Governor Walz to serve on the Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneurs Board. He has successfully represented a wrongfully incarcerated pro bono client, mentors emerging professionals through multiple programs, and has been featured on NBC Nightly News, MSNBC, and CBS. Jazz has been recognized as one of *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* 40 Under 40, named to *Worth* magazine's Worthy 100 list of global innovators creating positive social impact, and received the Fastcase 50, an annual award honoring courageous innovators and visionary leaders shaping the future of law and technology.

Education & Admissions

Education

- University of St. Thomas School of Law, J.D., 2015
 - Black Lawyers Student Association, President, 2012–2013
- University of St. Thomas, B.S., 2012
 - University of St. Thomas Dease Scholarship

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

Experience

Media Mentions

- [Traffic Stop App Connects Drivers & Attorneys](#), NBC News with Lester Holt, 2022
- [Attorney on Demand: App Connects Drivers Getting Pulled Over with Lawyer](#), NBC News Top Story with Tom Llamas, 2022
- ["TurnSignl" App Connects Lawyer to People Pulled Over by Police](#), NBC News, 2022
- [New App "TurnSignl" Offers Instant Legal Help During Traffic Stops](#), The Sunday Show with Jonathan Capehart, MSNBC, 2021

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- [Business Leaders Hope to Grow Minnesota Economy](#), Fox 9, 2022
 - Roundtable member for Governor Walz's session on giving businesses opportunities to thrive
- [TurnSign!](#), Minnesota Live with Megan Newquist and Chris Egert, 2023
- [Empowering Technology for Social Justice and the Justice Impacted](#), Blacks in Technology, 2023
- [A New App Seeks to Transform Traffic Stops](#), Forbes, 2023
- [Why We Invested in TurnSign!](#), Medium, 2023

Podcasts

- [TECHSHOW 2023: Insights From the Legaltech Visionaries Panel](#), podcast, Legal Talk Network, 2023
- [TurnSign!](#), podcast, The Legal 500
- [A Conversation with Jazz Hampton, Attorney and CEO of TurnSign!](#), podcast, LawLytics, 2023
- [Using Legal Tech to Create Sustainable Social Change – Jazz Hampton, CEO of TurnSign!](#), podcast, TL Podcast, 2022

Publications

- [Underestimated Start-Up Founders: The Untapped Opportunity](#), contributor, McKinsey & Company, June 23, 2023
- [How to Launch a Thriving Business: Tips from Successful Minnesota Startups](#), contributor, *The Minnesota StarTribune*. 2022

Seminars

- [Legaltech Visionaries](#), headline panelist, American Bar Association Techshow, 2023
- [How to Increase Access](#), presenter, Clio Cloud Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, 2023
- [Building a Business to Do Good](#), keynote speech, United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Social Justice and Social Entrepreneurship Symposium, Morehouse College, 2023
- [Convocation Address at Carleton College](#), September 2023
- [Leading Transformational Change](#), panelist, *Twin Cities Business* (TCB) Person of the Year Event, 2023
- [Inside Minnesota IP: Meet the Inventors and Entrepreneurs](#), panelist, Midwest Intellectual Property Institute, 2022

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- Headline Moderator and Panel Host, Amplify: Connect, Elevate & Sustain Black Professionals in Technology, 2022
- *Inclusive Branding at Your Startup*, presenter, All In, Inclusive Event Design Guide, Google, 2023
- *How to Pitch the Fortune 500*, presenter to panel of judges, Twin Cities Startup Week (TCSW), 2023
- *Corporate Accountability and Legal Tech*, speaker, Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity (MBCRE) All-Hands Meeting, 2023
- *Tech for Justice: Bridging the Gap Through Innovation*, featured panelist, Mitchell Hamline ACLU Student Chapter, 2023
- *TurnSignl and Its Mission*, presenter, Blacks at Microsoft, Fargo, North Dakota, 2023
- *Mind the Gap*, featured panelist, Angel Fest, 2022
- *Is TurnSignl a Turning Point?*, presenter, Minnesota State Bar Association Annual Convention, 2022
- *Creative Wealth*, presenter, Third Annual Ignite Black Business Summit, 2023
- *Economics of DEI*, panelist, EAFORUM (East African Forum), 2022
- *Entrepreneurship*, presenter, Cretin-Derham Hall, 2023

Professional & Civic

Bar Associations

- Minnesota State Bar Association
 - Corporate Counsel Section
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers

Professional Associations

- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- ACG Minnesota

Civic Involvement

- Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneurs Board, appointed by Governor Walz, 2026–present
- The Minneapolis Foundation, Board of Trustees, 2023–present
- Great North Innocence Project, Board of Directors, 2023–present

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- Catholic Charities Twin Cities, Board of Directors, 2022–present
- Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, Advisory Board Member, 2022–present
- University of St. Thomas
 - School of Law, Student Mentor, 2018–present
 - Opus College of Business, Adjunct Professor, Venture Capital and Economic Development, 2023–2025
- Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Adjunct Professor, 2020–2021
- Techstars Washington DC, Mentor, 2022–2023

Accolades

Honors & Awards

- *Fastcase 50*, 2022
 - *Recognizing courageous innovators, visionaries, and leaders shaping the future of law and technology*
- [Worthy 100](#), Global Innovators Changing the World, *Worth*, 2022
 - *Recognizing global leaders using their influence and resources to create positive social impact*
- *40 Under 40*, Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, 2022
- *100 Leaders to Watch*, Twin Cities Business, 2023
- *Alumni Impact Award*, University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2022–2023
- [Twin Cities Black Leaders You Should Know](#), Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, 2023
- *Spirit of St. Thomas Award*, University of St. Thomas, 2024

TurnSignl Honors & Awards

During Jazz's tenure as Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, TurnSignl earned the following honors and awards:

- *Winner of ABA TECHSHOW Startup of the Year*, 2022
- *Google for Startups Accelerator*, 2022
- *The Impact Division (Meda BIPOC Company Section) and The Fast Pitch Competition Awards*, Minnesota Cup (MN Cup), Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, 2021
- *Startup of the Year, Inclusion Evolution, and Company Culture Awards*, Twin Cities Startup Week, 2022

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- *Startups to Watch, Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, 2023*
 - *TurnSignl was named one of the 12 standout companies*
- *The Blazer Award, Early-Stage Startups, Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, 2022*
- *Tech 20 List, Twin Cities Business, 2022*
- *Power the Future, Honorable Mention, Forum on Workplace Inclusion's 35th Annual Conference, 2023*
- *People's Choice Winner, VeeCon, 2022*