

## CHRIS SMYTHE

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KAUFMAN & CANOLES, NORFOLK**

Chris Smythe became executive director of Kaufman & Canoles in March, overseeing day-to-day operations of the Norfolk-headquartered law firm.

He began his career as an attorney before transitioning to the business side. He previously held roles as vice president of content at TotalVid.com and director of new ventures for Landmark Communications. The opportunity to combine his legal and business skill sets at Kaufman & Canoles was an opportunity he “couldn’t pass up.”

Smythe is focused on positioning the 215-person firm to be at the forefront of Virginia’s legal market and guiding it through rapid changes in technology — especially leveraging emerging tools like artificial intelligence responsibly.

“AI is changing everything, and it’ll change the practice of law as well, and figuring out how to do that correctly is a big part of my job,” he says.