

Trusts and Estates

Our goal in the Trusts and Estates Group is to help clients reach their personal and business objectives with a minimum tax burden. We work with clients to identify and execute the most tax-efficient solutions available for their unique needs. Business owners considering expansion or sale of their businesses, families establishing wealth transfer plans and estate administrators all rely on the significant experience of our lawyers across multiple tax disciplines to identify overlooked opportunities and creative solutions.

As skilled listeners, we ask questions and carefully evaluate the needs of our clients in order to formulate effective tax saving and asset protection strategies. We understand that the nuances of business transactions can be complex, and pride ourselves on our effective communication to provide clarity to our clients. We advise multi-generational families, closely-held businesses, entrepreneurs, large corporations and their shareholders, non-profit and tax-exempt organizations, partnerships, limited liability companies, trusts, estates and family offices. We collaborate with private equity funds, investment bankers, financial, accounting and other professional advisors.

We provide practical legal solutions related to:

- Business formation and choice of entity
- Taxable and tax-free mergers, acquisitions and divestitures
- Real estate transactions, including Section 1031 like-kind exchanges
- State and local tax planning
- Charitable giving and tax-exempt organizations
- Individual estate and income tax planning
- Wills, trusts and elder law planning
- Asset protection
- Estate and trust administration and probate litigation
- Tax dispute resolution

Estate Planning and Administration

Our lawyers guide individual clients and their families through all phases of estate and wealth transfer planning, accommodating long-term objectives while being sensitive to current needs. With sophisticated knowledge and understanding of federal and state taxation, we devise plans that allow for the passage of wealth and assets across multiple generations while minimizing the transfer tax burden. We counsel young families with early stage planning as well as those with

PRACTICE CONTACT

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RELATED PRACTICES

Corporate and Securities
Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy
Real Estate
Tax

RELATED INDUSTRIES

Financial & Investment Services
Healthcare
Technology

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Tax planning for businesses and individuals
- Tax dispute resolution
- Wealth transfer and estate planning and administration

significant assets, including the ultra-high net worth, in all cases focusing on protecting and preserving family assets. We also advise individuals on ownership succession for closely-held businesses both during lifetime and by testamentary devise.

We take a collaborative approach to private wealth management, both in our internal structure and in our client relationships. Ensuring thoroughness and accessibility, each client is introduced to the appropriate lawyers and paralegals within the group to ensure that the client's needs are fully and timely addressed. Additionally, we regularly partner with our clients' other professional advisors, including accountants and investment managers, to create highly tailored and tax-efficient plans unique to each client's specific needs and desires.

As part of our estate planning practice, we have developed significant experience in the design and use of irrevocable life insurance trusts, qualified personal residence trusts, family limited partnerships and limited liability companies, charitable remainder trusts and private foundations, generation-skipping trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, and other sophisticated estate and income tax savings techniques. Our experience includes tax audits with the Internal Revenue Service and dealings with the Art Advisory Panel, Charities Bureau of the Attorney General's Office and various Surrogate Courts.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Represented a family of a closely-held family business in designing the transfer of the business to the 5th generation, by designing a transaction structured as a sale which did not yield income taxes and shifted ownership to the next generation without incidence of the gift tax

Worked with the owner of a privately held business in its acquisition by a private equity firm while deferring a significant portion of the owner's gain from the 'sale' of such business

Worked with a number of clients to qualify for and utilize state income tax credits to minimize their overall tax burden and improve the bottom line

Resolved multiple IRS audits on issues ranging from R&D tax credits, hobby losses, and depreciation adjustments, often with little or no adjustments.

CASES & DEALS

Cal Net Technology Merges With NexusTek
8.7.18

NEWS

Super Lawyers Names Five White and Williams LLP Attorneys to its Metro New York Lists
Super Lawyers, 11.7.25

Congratulations to all of our 2023 Attorneys Named as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
5.25.23

Congratulations 2022 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
7.13.22

White and Williams Lawyers Recognized as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
11.1.21

Jared Johnson Joins White and Williams as Partner in Philadelphia
8.26.21

PUBLICATIONS

Court Denies Injunction in Battle of Titans of New York Real Estate and Allows UCC Sale of Pledged Equity Interests to Proceed
Real Estate Alert, 1.29.26

Stacking The QSBS Exclusion: Opportunities and Caution for Estate Planners
Philadelphia Bar Association Probate and Trust Law Section Newsletter, 12.2.25

Taxes Too High? Falling Office Building Values Could Mean Big Tax Savings
Tax & Estates Alert, 10.13.25

Corporate Transparency Act – FinCEN Narrows Scope of Reporting Requirements and Extends Deadline
Business Department Alert, 3.27.25

Latest Corporate Transparency Act Update from FinCEN: Enforcement Paused, For Now
Business Department Alert, 3.3.25

Phoenix-Like: The Corporate Transparency Act Returns, Reporting Requirements Due March 21, 2025
Business Department Alert, 2.21.25

Corporate Transparency Act – Supreme Court Weighs In
Business Department Alert, 1.24.25

Corporate Transparency Act Déjà vu – The More Things Change The More They Stay The Same
Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Requirements Paused (Again)
Client Alert, 12.27.24

Corporate Transparency Act – Fifth Circuit Lifts Preliminary Injunction – FinCEN Extends Deadline to January 13, 2025
Client Alert, 12.26.24

The 12 Days of Year-End Estate Planning
Tax and Estates Alert, 12.2.24

Navigating Intra-Family Transactions and Their Estate and Gift Tax Implications: Lessons from Estate of MacElhenny v. Commissioner
7.27.23

Proposed Legislation to Alleviate Tax Reporting Burdens for Small Businesses and Casual Sellers That Conduct Online Sales
Tax Alert, 6.7.23

Pennsylvania Superior Court: No Creditor Protection for Inherited IRAs
Tax and Estates Alert, 5.5.22

Gift, Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Changes for 2022
Tax and Estates Alert, 3.2.22

Standby Guardianship: An Easy and Essential Part of the Estate Planner's Toolkit
The Legal Intelligencer, 2.8.22

2022 Tax Filing Season: Nine Things You Need to Know
Tax and Estates Alert, 1.27.22

Biden's American Families Plan to Partially Eliminate Stepped Up Basis
Tax and Estates Alert, 8.3.21

The Powerful Power of Attorney: Changes Coming in New York State
Real Estate and Tax and Estates Alert, 5.4.21

Pennsylvania's New Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act
Tax and Estates Alert, 1.5.21

"Bad Boy" Guarantees Reviewed by the IRS
Tax and Finance Alert, 3.22.16

EVENTS

Estate Planning 101
New York City Bar's Bridge-the-Gap Program, 9.28.21

The Changing Landscape of Commercial Loan Documents
Philadelphia, PA, 4.7.16

Executive Compensation Sections 409A and 280G: Selected Topics and Concepts
Philadelphia, PA, 2.2.15