



Steven A. Widdes Of Counsel

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Practice Areas

Estates, Trusts & Probate

Profile

With over 40 years of experience, Steve Widdes is widely recognized for his knowledge and expertise in estate planning, asset protection, estate and trust administration, and tax and business succession planning. Steve prides himself on being a good listener and using the law to help people implement their personal estate planning goals. As chair of the firm's Estates and Trusts practice group, Steve counsels a wide range of individuals and families, from those with more modest means to those with estates exceeding \$100 million. He designs sophisticated estate plans to uniquely address issues faced by clients, whether to minimize estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes or to ensure an appropriate plan is in place to protect the clients' loved ones.

With an approachable, friendly nature, Steve is committed to working closely with his clients to understand their particular anxieties and concerns with regard to their estate planning objectives. He is keenly focused on helping his clients put together a customized plan to accomplish their wishes in a manner that is sophisticated, tax advantageous and lasting. Steve considers his work as a true collaboration with his clients; one in which he actively strives to streamline the planning process so that each client feels heard, understood and involved in achieving their goals.

Tax, financial, charitable and estate planning groups frequently request Steve to speak on a variety of estate and business succession planning topics. Honored as a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and nationally accredited as an estate planner, Steve served for many years on ACTEC's Asset Protection Committee.

Education

Drake University (B.A., *with honors*, 1973)

Drake University (J.D., 1976)

Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M., Taxation, 1981)

More

In his free time, Steve is an avid Vikings fan, loves to play racquetball and tennis, and enjoys traveling, reading, seeing movies and spending time with his grandchildren.

Admissions & Certifications

Maryland

District of Columbia

Memberships & Activities

Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland

Maryland State Bar Association

American Bar Association, Section of Real Property and Probate

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation

- Endowment Planning Committee (2011 - Present)

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Fellow

- Asset Protection Committee

District of Columbia Estate Planning Council

Estate Planning Council of Suburban Maryland

Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, Board of Governors (1998 - 2011)

- Vice Chair (2009 - 2011)

Jewish Social Service Agency

- Planned Giving Committee (2011 - 2015)

Montgomery/Prince George's County Tax Study Group

Suburban Hospital

- Planned Giving Committee (2002 - 2012)

Honors & Awards

Best Lawyers in America (2006 - 2023)

- 2021 Trusts and Estates "Lawyer of the Year" in the Washington DC area

Maryland Super Lawyers (2007-2023)

- Top 10 Attorneys in Maryland (2017-2023)
- Top 100 Attorneys in Maryland (2012-2023)

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers (2007-2023)

- Top 100 Attorneys in Washington, D.C. (2009-2013, 2015-2022)

Bethesda Magazine

- Top Trusts and Estates Attorney (2011, 2018)
- Top Attorney (2019, 2021)

Washingtonian

- Top Lawyer, Lifetime Achievement (2022)
- Top Financial Advisor (2022)
- Top Trust and Estate Lawyer (2002-2021)

Legal Times, Leading Lawyer, Trusts and Estates (2004)
Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent peer review rating