

Private Client Services

We serve as trusted partners to individuals and high-net-worth families, including family-owned companies, high-level corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and private foundations. Our multidisciplinary group offers a comprehensive approach to your legal needs, including estate planning, trust administration, real estate, tax issues, charitable giving, and investment management. Our services include the full spectrum of transactions, from a recent \$80 million gift to Carnegie Mellon University to the purchase of shares in an NFL football team. We also work with private clients to address sensitive family matters such as divorce, business disputes, and fiduciary litigation.

EXPERIENCE

- > Represented an individual client in the closing of an acquisition of a parcel in Sussex County, New Jersey, triple-net-leased to CVS.
- > Represented the shareholder of a real estate corporation who, in conjunction with other shareholders composing majority ownership, was a defendant in an oppressed shareholder action.
- > Represents individuals before the IRS in estate and gift tax audits and in seeking private letter rulings relating to generation-skipping transfer tax exemptions.
- > Develops management and purchase/sale arrangements for family businesses and associated holding companies.
- > Negotiated prenuptial agreements for children of the owners of a valuable business, protecting the business while designing a fair agreement that protects the less wealthy spouses.
- > Represented the estates of more than a dozen World Trade Center victims.
- > Represented a family in the transfer of a substantial collection of 20th-century art to their children, free of gift and estate taxes. Advised the family with respect to gifts and loans of art to major museums.
- > Represented a family worth over \$100 million, whose wealth derives from the sale of a successful and well-known business. Designed the estate plans for the parents and their children, saving millions of dollars of estate and gift taxes in the process.
- > Represented several museums and other cultural institutions in designing planned giving programs that enable wealthy individuals to make gifts to the institutions while achieving family goals and saving taxes.
- > Sustained the enforceability of an in terrorem clause, probate of an unsigned will, and multiple holographic will matters, as well as countless attacks on and defenses of accountings.
- > Participated as a consultant in a will contest that led to the funding of one of the world's finest animal shelters.
- > Represented a charitable client in a will contest; through aggressive discovery and trial efforts, produced a settlement that reduced the executor's commission by 80 percent and increased a small bequest to a settlement of 90 percent of the estate.
- > Represented an estate in the settlement of a "triple domicile" dispute which had to be signed onto by the governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.
- > Represented the exceptant in a surcharge action for more than \$200 million charging that a corporate fiduciary breached its fiduciary obligation in its failed attempts to develop a resort area on the East Coast. This case made new law in several areas, including the standard owed by a fiduciary when it controls a business through a series of trusts.
- > Represented the primary beneficiaries of an estate in successfully having the South Carolina Supreme Court apply a New Jersey choice of law provision in deciding which statute of limitations should be applied in a South Carolina will contest.
- > Served as co-counsel to an estate in a highly publicized will contest in which the bulk of a \$500 million estate passed to the charities of the decedent's choice.
- > Served as New Jersey counsel to an estate that was highlighted by a 90-day trial where the two primary parties (the decedent's third wife and six children from two prior marriages) reached a settlement while the jury was deliberating, dividing up more than \$600 million.
- > Teamed with an executor to achieve an out-of-court agreement among nine family and non-family beneficiaries of the estate of a well-known entertainer to resolve multiple will ambiguities; orchestrated an auction of voluminous personal property, including jewelry, art, and music awards, as well as a private sale of a Picasso to an overseas collector; handled a critically important IRS audit that included the valuation of royalties and intellectual property rights and optimized the post-death value of the decedent's music rights; and crafted a business structure for management and exploitation of decedent's music rights for the ongoing benefit of estate beneficiaries.
- > Represented the Creamer family in the sale of J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., to APi Group. J. Fletcher Creamer & Son is a 90+-year-old, national heavy construction company specializing in, among other things, renewable energy, fiber-optic, bridge, highway, runway, and bulkhead construction.
- > Represented a minority stockholder, who was also the corporate president, in extricating himself from the corporation and in establishing a related business.
- > Represented 50 percent owner of a limited liability company in taking control of the company and buying out co-owner.

- > Represented the principal owner of a sports team in buyout of minority owner.
- > Successfully defended David Chase in a jury trial against a claim by a former judge that he had helped Chase create the blockbuster HBO series *The Sopranos*.
- > Represented a former hedge fund manager in a breach of contract dispute over unpaid deferred compensation.
- > Successfully defended the estate of the deceased inventor of the popular Super Soaker water gun against claims of theft of ideas and trade secret misappropriation, obtaining summary judgment dismissing all claims against our client.
- > Represents individuals in a number of trusts and estates matters, including undue influence, enforcement of inter vivos gifts, holographic will matters, breach of fiduciary duties, and attacks on and defenses of accountings.

HONORS & AWARDS

- > **Chambers High Net Worth Guide: (2016-2017)**
#1 ranking for Trust and Estates practice, Private Wealth Law
- > **U.S. News & World Report Best Law Firms: (2017)**
Recognized in the Trusts & Estates Law section.
- > **Private Asset Management (PAM) Magazine: (2013-2015)**
Received "Best Law Firm - Client Service" award for three consecutive years
- > **Chambers High Net Worth Guide (2016-2020)**
#1 ranking for Trusts & Estates practice: Private Wealth Law
- > **Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (2020)**
Eric Weinstock – Recognized as September Volunteer of the Month for his contributions to the life planning project
- > **Crain's: Notable Women in Law – New York (2021)**
Recognizing women lawyers who have impacted New York City through their distinguished careers and exceptional civic and philanthropic activities