Chelsea L. May

Partner

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Chelsea draws on legal knowledge and experience as a CPA to deliver pragmatic solutions to clients' tax and business planning needs.

Chelsea advises high-net-worth individuals, fiduciaries, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs on issues related to estate planning, wealth transfer planning, income tax planning, and business succession. She specializes in the creation and implementation of sophisticated multi-generational planning designed to optimize tax efficiency and administrative ease and to minimize future conflict.

As a former Certified Public Accountant, Chelsea brings a unique and practical perspective in addressing her clients' needs. By combining her extensive legal know-how with her previous auditing and accounting experience, she crafts creative and pragmatic business-focused solutions. She works with clients across all industries and professions, including real estate, farm and ranching, food and beverage, retail, start-up companies, and private equity.

Chelsea prepares estate, wealth transfer, philanthropic, and business succession plans that incorporate and reflect a client's individual objectives, philosophies, values, and goals. She also specializes in the administration of high-net-worth estates and trusts in both Colorado and Wyoming.

EXPERIENCE

- Estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax planning
- Irrevocable trust planning including intentionally defective irrevocable trusts (IDITs), dynasty trusts, grantor trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), qualified personal residence trusts (QPRTs), and irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs)
- Values based trusts
- Business succession planning
- Private trust companies
- Community and marital property planning
- Planning for minors
- Wills and revocable trusts
- Powers of attorney and living wills
- Asset titling and customized beneficiary designations

PRACTICES

Estate Planning, Trust Administration, and Wealth Transfer
Income Tax
Tax and Benefits
Private Client

INDUSTRIES

Real Estate and Construction
Outdoor Recreation

EDUCATION

University of Colorado School of Law, J.D., 2005
Order of the Coif
Case Notes and Comments Editor, *Journal on Communications and High Technology Law*

University of Oklahoma, B.B.A., Finance and International Business; Bachelor of Accountancy, 1999
Summa cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wyoming
Colorado

- Estate administration
- Trust administration
- Limited liability companies and family partnerships
- Income tax planning
- Charitable planning

PUBLICATIONS

"Planning Opportunities Under the New Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," *fiduciarylawblog.com*, January 2018

"Good News for Surviving Spouses Seeking to Elect Portability," *fiduciarylawblog.com*, August 2017

"Charitable Trusts," *Colorado Bar Association, Denver, CO, Co-author*, Co-Author, 2011, Updated 2017

RECOGNITION

- Colorado Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Estate & Probate, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
- *The Best Lawyers in America*©, Trusts and Estates, 2020, 2022; Tax Law, 2021, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Member
- Colorado Bar Association, Section of Taxation and Section of Probate and Trust, Member
- Colorado Women's Bar Association, Member
- Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Council, Member
- Destination Imagination Colorado, Volunteer