



Lauren E. Surdyke

Partner

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St. Louis - 314.345.4719

Lauren represents high-net-worth individuals and families in sophisticated estate planning matters, focusing on asset protection, business succession planning, navigating complex family dynamics, and strategies to leverage federal and state estate and gift tax exemption. She also counsels clients on trust administration, prepares estate and gift tax returns, and negotiates and drafts marital agreements. By considering each client's unique situation and taking a collaborative approach to client service, she helps families and individuals protect their wealth, minimize tax impact, and secure their futures.

In addition to her estate and tax planning work, Lauren has counseled a variety of business clients on entity formation, contract negotiation, and other business matters. Her previous experience includes working at a large financial services firm, where she reviewed high-net-worth estate plans and assisted with strategies to maximize wealth.

Education

- Missouri Baptist University (B.S., 2012)
 - History
- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., 2015)

Bar Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois
- New York

Professional Affiliations

- St. Louis County Bar Association (*President, Executive Committee Member, and CLE Chair*)
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity

Community Involvement

- Gateway End-of-Life Coalition (*Volunteer Presenter*)

Practices & Industries

- Trusts & Estates
- Business Succession Planning
- Charitable Planning
- Estate Plans & Tax Planning
- Fiduciary Services
- Marital Agreements
- Private Wealth Services

- Gateway to Hope (*Gala Committee*)

Firm Involvement

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee
- Employee Retention Committee

Awards & Honors

- Named to *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, Trusts and Estates (2023 - 2026)
- Named to the Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers Rising Stars list, Estate & Probate (2023-2025)
- St. Louis County Bar Association, Roy F. Essen Memorial Award for Outstanding Work as a Young Lawyer (2023)
- St. Louis Small Business Monthly, Top Estate Planning Providers (2023)

Publications & Presentations

- Presentation on Asset Protection, Washington University Physicians (August 2024)

Experience

- Creates and structures advanced estate planning strategies, including spousal access trusts, family limited partnerships, and gift trusts.
- Represents a multi-generational family with an incapacitated parent in advanced estate planning matters, including creating a family limited partnership, analyzing federal, state and GST exemptions, and preparing complex trust modifications spanning several states.
- Represented a high-net-worth client with a \$60+ million business in connection with marital planning, including drafting and negotiating a marital agreement with multi-state parties in which the client's business guaranteed obligations under the marital agreement.
- Represents a high-net-worth couple in ongoing estate planning matters, including establishing two SLATs with installment sale transactions.