

Snell & Wilmer



Steffi Gascón Hafen

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Main Bio

Steffi Gascón Hafen is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, California Board of Legal Specialization. She is a partner of the firm's Private Client Services and General Federal Tax practice groups and works in the Orange County and Los Angeles offices. Steffi's practice is concentrated in tax, trust, and estate matters with emphasis in estate planning, trust and probate administration, and estate and gift taxation. She employs advanced estate planning techniques, including grantor retained annuity trusts, family partnerships, limited liability companies, charitable remainder trusts, defective grantor trusts, insurance planning, public charities, and private foundations. She also advises clients regarding succession planning for closely held businesses. In addition, Steffi has experience in state and local taxation, including income taxation, sales and use taxation, and property taxation, as well as issues regarding residency and domicile. Steffi also represents clients in front of the California state and local taxing authorities, and the Internal Revenue Service. She works with clients' certified public accountants, financial planners, and other service providers to provide holistic solutions to clients' needs.

Education

- Loyola Law School (LL.M. in Taxation, with distinction, 2011)
- University of Southern California, Gould School of Law (J.D., 2010)
 - Moot Court Executive Board and National Team Member
- University of California, Santa Barbara (B.A., Psychology and Law and Society, 2006)
- Lorenzo de' Medici University, Florence, Italy (Study Abroad, 2004)

Languages

- Spanish

Professional Memberships & Activities

- Orange County Bar Association (2011-present)
 - Trusts and Estates Section
 - Tax Section
- Orange County Estate Planning Council (2017-present)
 - Attorney Member
- Orange County Hispanic Bar Association

- Board of Directors (2013-present)
- USC Law Alumni OC Committee (2012-2016)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Young Tax Lawyers, Secretary (2010-2011)

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "Securing Your Legacy Through Estate Planning," Presenter, Entrepreneurs' Organization Orange County (EO OC) Event, Costa Mesa, CA (April 17, 2019)
- "Staying Tax Exempt," (Training Program for Pro Bono Nonprofit Organizations Legal Assessment Clinic), Co-Presenter, ACC-SoCal, Public Law Center, Snell & Wilmer Orange County Offices, Costa Mesa, CA (April 4, 2019)
- "[Estate Planning for Cryptocurrency Doesn't Need to be Cryptic](#)," Author, Lex Mundi Blockchain White Paper Series (February 6, 2019)
- "[Don't Lose Your Client's Cryptocurrency in Cyberspace](#)," Co-Author, Wealth Management (September 20, 2018)
- "[How the Rich Can Dodge Trump's Property Tax Hike](#)," Quoted, Bloomberg News (June 15, 2018)
- "[Does the Floor Number of My Los Angeles Condo Determine the Taxes I'll Pay?](#)" Quoted, Mansion Global (February 15, 2018)
- "[The Down and Dirty on the New Tax Rules and Estate Planning](#)," Author, Accounting Today (February 8, 2018)
- "[Repeal the Estate Tax! And Other Sound Bites](#)," Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (October 2, 2017)
- "[A Death in the Family - Now What?](#)" Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (March 14, 2016)
- "[Estate Planning in 2015](#)," Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (October 12, 2015)
- "Law Firm Models: Improving Gender Equity and Performance," Roundtable Presenter, American Bar Association Women of the Section of Litigation Conference, Chicago, IL (November 5-7, 2014)
- "Negotiate Your Way to Success: Best Practices for Women Rainmakers," Co-Moderator, ABA Women Rainmakers Spring Workshop, Costa Mesa, CA (May 9, 2014)
- "[Estate Planning in 2014](#)," Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (April 7, 2014)
- "Strategic Networking: A Guide for Women Rainmakers," Co-Moderator, ABA Women Rainmakers Fall Workshop, Costa Mesa, CA (November 5, 2013)
- "[The 'Permanent' Relief Act](#)," Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (June 24, 2013)
- "[The Disappearing Estate and Gift Tax Exemption](#)," Co-Author, Orange County Business Journal (September 17, 2012)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- [On the Rise - Top 40 Young Lawyers Honoree](#), American Bar Association (2019)
- [Top Latino Lawyers of 2018](#), Latino Leaders Magazine (2018)
- Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition, Estate Planning and Probate (2018-2019)

Community Involvement

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach

- Board of Directors (2018-present)
- OC Head Start
 - Chairman of the Board (2019-present)
 - Board Member (2016-present)

Other Professional Experience

- Baker & McKenzie, Associate (2011), Summer Associate (2009)
- Warner Brothers Studios, Music Legal Department, Summer Intern (2004)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of California