

Snell & Wilmer



Matthew K. Donovan

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Main Bio

Matthew Donovan is a partner in the firm's private client services group. His practice is concentrated in matters relating to family wealth, with an emphasis in estate planning and administration, estate and gift taxation, business transition, life insurance and charitable planning. In addition to lifetime planning, Matt advises his clients and their families in connection with post-death estate administration and probate litigation, including will contests, guardianship contests and breach of fiduciary duty claims.

Representative Clients

Matt has a wide range of clients throughout the western United States, which include executives, business owners, farmers and dairymen, banks and trust companies, and heirs of some of America's largest private companies. In particular, Matt enjoys counseling families in connection with family businesses, inter-generational planning, management succession planning and governance.

Education

- University of California Hastings College of the Law (J.D., 1993)
 - American Jurisprudence Award: Corporate Law
- University of California at Davis (B.S., Agricultural and Managerial Economics, high honors, 1990)

Professional Memberships & Activities

- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Arizona
 - Certified Estate and Trust Law Specialist
- Maricopa County (Arizona) Bar Association
- Stanislaus County (California) Bar Association
- Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants (2001-2013)
- Arizona Captive Insurance Association
- Denver Estate Planning Council

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "[When Your Client Sells the Family Business to a Child](#)," Author, WealthManagement.com (April 26, 2018)

- "Does Everyone Need a South Dakota Trust?" Author, JDSupra Business Advisory (April 29, 2014)
- "Estate Tax Portability – Nothing is Easy," Author, JDSupra Business Advisor (April 28, 2014)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education (2010)

Community Involvement

- Scottsdale Artists' School, 2014 President (2011-2017)
- Volunteer Lawyers Program (2008-present)
- Tax & Legal Seminar - Professional Advisory Committee (2004-2012)
- Phoenix Children's Hospital Leadership Circle (2006-2009)
- Social Venture Partners (2005-2008)
- Boys & Girls Club, Board Member (2003-2005)

Other Professional Experience

- CFG Business Solutions, LLC, Business Consultant (2002-2007)
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Associate (2000-2002)
- Action Performance Companies, Inc., Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs (1997-2000)
- Arthur Andersen, LLP, Accountant (1993-1997)

Bar Admissions

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Arizona
- Supreme Court of California
- Supreme Court of Colorado