Louis A. Laski

Partner

Chicago Office

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Practices

FOCUS: Private Wealth

Business Succession Planning

Charitable Planning, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations

Education

LLM, New York University School of Law

JD, University of Arkansas

BA, Portland State University

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Louis Laski is a partner in the Private Wealth group and assists ultra-high-net-worth individuals with their estate planning. He provides basic "core" estate planning documents as well as more complex trusts and gifting strategies. These include grantor retained annuity trusts, sales to defective grantor trusts and all types of directed trusts in various jurisdictions. He also designs and assists in the administration of a wide range of estate planning and gift transactions.

Minimizing taxes to maximize assets

Louis has an extensive background in the Internal Revenue Code which makes him well equipped to deal with complex gift, estate and generation-skipping transfer tax issues as well as the intersection between transfer tax issues and income tax issues. He proposes estate planning transactions that harmonize all of the applicable taxing compilations, while still keeping the client's goals as the paramount objective. Louis prides himself on coming up with creative strategies to achieve client goals.

He enjoys assisting nonprofit and tax-exempt entities during the span of the entity's life: from creation to administration to dissolution. Louis has experience in forming nonprofit entities and successfully applying for tax-exempt status and maintaining tax-exempt status under federal and state laws. He also works with entrepreneurs in developing business succession strategies with specific insight and care toward the viability of the business at all times.

He worked at another law firm for two years prior to joining Katten. He received the tax award from his law school and was an editor on law review.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Ones to Watch
    - Trusts and Estates, 2023–2024

News

- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Names New Partners (July 26, 2022)

Publications

- US Supreme Court to Settle Company-Owned Life Insurance Estate Valuation Issue (January 3, 2024)
- 2023 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2023)
- Adequate Disclosure: Where Are We Now? (October 23, 2023)
- Company-Owned Life Insurance Included in Estate: US Court of Appeals Grants Summary Judgment to IRS (June 14, 2023)
- 2022 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 17, 2022)
- 2021 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 22, 2021)
- Proposed Tax Legislation Would Dramatically Impact Private Wealth Planning (September 24, 2021)
- 2021 Biden Plan Estate Planning Advisory (January 15, 2021)

- 2020 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 24, 2020)
- 2019 Year-End Private Wealth Advisory (November 25, 2019)
- Katten Team Publishes 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Series (December 4–7, 2018)
- 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 19, 2018)
- The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Gift, Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Reform (February 28, 2018)
- 2017 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2017)
- Proposed Regulations Under Internal Revenue Code Section 2704: Changes May Be Coming to Transfers of Closely Held Business Interests (September 6, 2016)

Presentations and Events

- Fox Valley Estate Planning Council (March 6, 2024) | *Panelist* | *How to Navigate Assets That Are Based in Multiple States*
- Loyola Next Generation Leadership Institute (February 21, 2024) | *Speaker* | *Estate Planning and the Family Business*
- Valuation of Company Owned Life Insurance (January 18, 2024) | *Presenter*
- Annual Katten Private Wealth & Fiduciary Seminar (October 11, 2023)
- Estate Planning and the Family Business | Lighthouse Peer Advisory Group, Loyola Family Business Center (May 9, 2023) | *Presenter*
- Estate Planning and the Family Business (May 2, 2023) | *Presenter*
- Annual Katten Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar (September 22, 2022)
- Entrepreneur Client: SPACs and QSBS (February 14, 2022) | *Presenter* | *Entrepreneur Client: SPACs and QSBS*

- Generation Skipping Transfer (GST) Presentation to BMO Financial Group (May 20, 2021) | *Presenter*
- Katten Virtual Private Wealth Seminar (October 14, 2020) | *Speaker* | *Advising UHNW Families During a Period of Seismic Changes*
- Katten Private Wealth Fiduciary Seminar (October 15, 2019) | *Speaker*
- BMO Financial Group Trusts and Estates Practice Group (March 18, 2019) | *Speaker* | *Heckerling 2019 Roundup*
- Heckerling 2019 Roundup CLE presentation (March 7, 2019) | *Presenter*