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Charles Harris

Partner

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Practices

FOCUS: Trusts and Estates

Corporate

Industries

Private Client Services

Family Offices

Recognition

Chambers High Net Worth, Private Wealth Law, 2018–2019

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Fellow

Leading Lawyers Network, 2008–2013

Best Lawyers in America, 2016–2019

Super Lawyers, Illinois, 2005–2019

Citywealth Leaderslist, 2015–2016

Education

JD, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology

BS, DePaul University

Charles Harris is co-head of the Chicago Trusts and Estates practice and a member of the firm's Board of Directors. Charles concentrates his practice in tax and estate planning matters, primarily representing wealthy individuals and owners of closely held businesses. He assists private equity investors in structuring their investments in a tax efficient manner and in planning for the transfer of their interests to family members. His estate planning skills include restructuring stock ownership in closely held businesses, establishing family limited partnerships, developing business succession plans, creating various trusts and limited liability companies, and analyzing the income, gift and estate tax implications of various techniques. In addition, Charles counsels executives of publicly traded companies, advising them on effectively planning for the exercise of stock options and structuring distributions from retirement plans.

Charles has dealt extensively with planning for US citizens with a foreign connection, whether the US citizen is residing in a foreign country, marrying a non-citizen spouse or otherwise connected with a foreign government. He has counseled clients who are non-resident aliens on the most tax-efficient manner for investing in US entities. He represents several companies in the US Virgin Islands that are part of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) program and is involved in all aspects of the design, implementation and qualification of appropriate vehicles that can qualify for the benefits under the program, coordinating the overall income tax and estate planning needs of the owners of these companies.

For clients who are philanthropically minded, Charles assists in creating private foundations and other charitable arrangements such as charitable lead trusts and charitable remainder trusts to enable a client to effectuate both charitable and tax planning.

He teaches an Estate and Gift Tax Class for the Graduate Tax Program at The John Marshall Law School. A prolific writer and lecturer, Charles has authored articles on such topics as generation skipping transfer tax planning, life insurance planning, tax payment clauses, and Illinois probate and trust administration, and frequently speaks on these topics before the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Chicago Bar Association and National Business Institute.

Charles is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Memberships

- Illinois State Bar Association
- The Chicago Bar Association, Trust Law Committee

Advisories

- 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)
- 2016 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 21, 2016)
- 2015 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 23, 2015)
- Eight Key Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from the Supreme Court's Decision on Same-Sex Marriage (June 29, 2015)
- 2014 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 26, 2014)
- 2013 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 2013)
- Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from Recent Revenue Ruling Concerning Marriages of Same-Sex Couples (September 3, 2013)
- Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from Recent Landmark Supreme Court Decisions Concerning Marriages of Same-Sex Couples (June 28, 2013)
- Estate Planning After the Fiscal Cliff Deal (January 16, 2013)
- 2012 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2012)
- IRS Releases Guidance on Foreign Financial Asset Reporting (February 1, 2012)
- Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program Reopens (January 11, 2012)
- 2011 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 23, 2011)
- Extension and New Guidance for the Voluntary Disclosure Initiative for Undisclosed Foreign Assets (June 10, 2011)
- House Votes 277-148 to Approve Senate Tax Cut Extension Bill (December 17, 2010)
- 2010 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 2010)
- 2010 Estate Tax Planning Strategies—Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunities vs. Potential Traps for the Unwary (September 21, 2010)
- HIRE Act Affects Foreign Trusts and Imposes Additional Requirements on US Persons with Foreign Accounts (March 24, 2010)
- US Government Acts Quickly to Help Haiti with Tax Benefits for Donors (February 2, 2010)
- Hooray, There's No Estate Tax: Now What Do I Do? (January 7, 2010)

- Possible One-Year Elimination of Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax in 2010: Going, Going, Gone? (December 23, 2009)
- 2009 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (December 2009)
- Illinois Passes State QTIP Legislation—Does Your Estate Plan Need to Be Updated to Take Advantage? (September 28, 2009)
- Changes to New York Powers of Attorney Effective September 1 (July 28, 2009)
- 2008 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (December 2008)
- New Expatriation Legislation Passed Unanimously by Congress and Signed by President (June 2008)
- Opportunities: Cloud Over Economy Creates Estate Planning Silver Lining (February 2008)

Articles

- Katten Team Publishes 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Series (December 4–7, 2018)