Michael O. Hartz

Partner

Chicago Office

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Practices

FOCUS: Private Wealth

Business Succession Planning

Charitable Planning, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations

Corporate

Industries

Private Client Services

Education

LLM, University of Florida

JD, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

BA, Kalamazoo College

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Community Involvements

Trusts & Estates, Estate Planning & Taxation Committee

Described by clients as a "phenomenal practitioner and extremely bright," Michael Hartz advises on business succession planning, tax-efficient wealth transfer into trusts for future generations and strategies for fulfilling philanthropic goals. Michael is ranked among the leading lawyers for private wealth law in *Chambers High Net Worth*, where his practical, effective solutions to complex problems have led to consistent recognition. With 40 years of experience in trust and estate planning and administration, Michael has exceptional insight into the issues that confront families, family-owned businesses and wealthy entrepreneurs.

A recognized leader in trust and estate planning

Michael's experience, attention to detail and care for his clients guide his handling of every matter. Primarily representing high net worth family business owners, including owners of some of the largest businesses in the Midwest, Michael helps them from the early stages of wealth creation through wealth transfer planning and charitable giving issues. He advises on all phases of estate planning, trust administration, ownership transition and risk management.

Michael also designs and administers family business succession plans. Many of his clients require sophisticated planning techniques to shift future wealth to the next generations in a fair and tax-efficient way. He helps his clients with integrating charitable planning strategies into their overall estate plans. Michael understands that many facets of his clients' lives will impact the design of their estate plans. Evaluating the various complexities, he assists clients to achieve their trust and estate planning goals.

A prolific author, Michael has written articles on tax and estate planning matters for publications such as the *Journal of Taxation* and *TAXES*, and he serves on the Estate Planning & Taxation Committee for *Trusts & Estates* magazine. Michael has been recognized by both *Chambers High Net Worth* and *Best Lawyers in America*, and he is a Fellow of the American College of

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"Another source comments that 'aside from being a phenomenal practitioner and extremely bright, he is just a good person. He's compassionate and when he talks with clients, he understands and he communicates well.'"

- Chambers HNW 2018 (Illinois, Private Wealth Law) survey response

Trust and Estate Counsel. He speaks frequently at estate planning and tax seminars.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
  - Fellow
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Illinois, 2019
  - Trusts and Estates, 2008–2024
  - Lawyer of the Year
    - Trusts and Estates, Chicago, 2017, 2021
- *Chambers High Net Worth*
  - Illinois: Private Wealth Law, 2016–2023
- *Chambers USA*
  - Leading Individual, 2017
- *Citywealth*
  - Top 100 Private Client Lawyers, 2021
  - Leaderslist, 2015–2016
- *Leading Lawyers Network*
  - 2003–2021
- *Super Lawyers*
  - Illinois, 2005–2024

News

- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Awarded Top Distinctions in *Chambers High Net Worth 2023* Guide (July 20, 2023)