

Andrew Benson

Senior Attorney

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Minneapolis – 612.492.5474

Seattle



Andrew helps clients achieve their goals at every stage of the estate planning process by finding creative solutions to address their unique circumstances.

Andrew helps clients through all stages of the estate planning process, including the preparation of wills, trusts, and powers of attorney, as well as the administration of probate and trust estates, all with the goal of providing clients with a tax-efficient transfer of wealth. In addition to fundamental estate planning, Andrew also regularly advises clients on trust administration questions (including the generation-skipping transfer tax, trust divisions, trust decanting, and modifying irrevocable trusts), business succession planning, trust and estate litigation matters, and charitable giving strategies (including establishing private foundations, charitable trusts, and donor advised funds).

In addition to estate planning, Andrew's practice includes work with tax-exempt entities ensuring compliance with rules and regulations in areas like self-dealing and private foundation excise taxes.

Outside of the office, Andrew regularly presents on estate planning issues with a focus on LGBTQ+ community topics and new developments in the law.

Select Experience

- **Private Foundations and Charitable Trusts:** Advises clients on establishing private foundations and charitable trusts while providing ongoing advice on good governance and administration issues.
- **Gift Planning:** Advises clients on tax efficient gifting to children and grandchildren, including "Crummey" Trusts, Qualified Personal Residence Trusts, Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts, Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts, and Legacy Trusts. Also provides advice on gifts to charity including Charitable Lead and Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- **Family Business Entities:** Establishes family limited liability companies to manage real estate and other investment assets for the long-term benefit of current and future descendants.

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., 2019)
 - *cum laude*
 - Pro Bono Society
 - Dean's Academic Achievement Award
 - Managing Editor, *Wisconsin Law Review*
- St. Ambrose University (B.A., Theatre, 2011)
 - *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota
- Washington

- **Tax Preparation:** Prepares gift tax returns to report taxable gifts.
- **International Planning:** Advises U.S. permanent residents on estate planning structure, including Qualified Domestic Trust requirements, and on planning strategies to minimize U.S. exit taxes.

Judicial Internship

- Wisconsin Supreme Court, Annette Ziegler, 2017

Accolades

- *Washington Super Lawyers®*, "Rising Stars," 2024
- Contributed more than 50+ Diversity & Inclusion hours, 2021-2022, 2024
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2020

Select Presentations

- *"If the Trust Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It. If the Trust is Broke, Come to this Presentation,"* Tri-Cities Estate Planning Council, May 16, 2024
- *"If the Trust Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It. If the Trust is Broke, Come to this Presentation,"* North Central Washington Estate Planning Council, February 22, 2024
- *"If the Trust Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It. If the Trust is Broke, Come to this Presentation,"* Washington State Bar Association - Real Property, Probate and Trust Section Midyear Meeting, June 4, 2023
- *"The Fed Strikes Back: Estate Planning in a High Interest Rate Environment,"* East King County Estate Planning Council, November 30, 2022
- *"A Hop, Skip, and a Jump: A Short Primer on the Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax,"* Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) – Seattle Chapter, October 28, 2021
- *"A Primer on Estate Planning for the LGBTQ+ Community,"* Minnesota Lavender Bar Association Annual Conference, February 5, 2021