



WEALTH AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella is home to one of the most respected Wealth and Succession Planning practices in the Midwest, representing individuals, families and fiduciaries in all phases of estate planning, trust administration, planned charitable giving, succession planning, ownership transition, trust and estate litigation, and risk management.

The Wealth and Succession Planning Practice serves clients ranging from professionals and entrepreneurs in the early stages of wealth creation to those with asset values in excess of a billion dollars. A number of firm clients are included in the annual edition of Forbes magazine's ranking of the 400 richest Americans.

Our attorneys understand that many aspects of our clients' lives, from their business dealings to family relationships, will affect their estate plans and must be carefully considered. We help our clients to both recognize and achieve their individualized goals with trust and estate planning.

Planned Giving

With decades of experience advising both individual and family donors and not-for-profit organizations, Burke Warren's attorneys are uniquely qualified to address the legal issues and challenges faced by the philanthropic community. Because many of our attorneys are also donors, board members, and officers for philanthropic organizations, we have a special appreciation for our clients' philanthropic goals. Drawing on this strength, our attorneys help clients structure gifts to benefit both donors and recipients. We advise clients regarding gifts of real estate, conservation easements, artwork and other special assets, bargain sales of appreciated property, charitable lead and remainder trusts, pooled income trusts, and charitable gift annuities.

Family Offices

PROFESSIONALS

Martinique L. Dickey

Anna G. Kardaras

Karen K. MacKay

Christine L. McGahan

Mary Kruit McWilliams

Martin P. Ryan

Gregory M. Winters

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Trust and Estate Litigation

RELATED PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Closely Held and Family Businesses

Tax Advisory Services

Tax-Exempt Organizations

Trust and Estate Litigation



Burke Warren represents a number of family offices throughout the United States with regard to various aspects of their operations, including income tax planning, estate and succession planning, structuring private investments, entity formation, asset protection, and litigation.

Our family office clients range from smaller offices with little or no full-time staff to multi-faceted offices with a large number of employees managing billions of dollars in investments. Burke Warren has specialists in many different areas of the law, including trust, corporate, and tax, with decades of experience in representing family offices. This makes Burke Warren uniquely suited to respond to a wide range of issues faced by family offices.

When representing family offices, we work closely with each family office's team of professional service providers, and we tailor our representation to their respective strengths and needs.

Experience

- Advises clients on a variety of wealth preservation strategies, including:
 - Gift, estate, and generation-skipping tax techniques, such as sales to intentionally defective grantor trusts; use of discounts to transfer non-marketable assets; and creation of limited liability companies, partnerships, and other entities for transfer tax minimization purposes
 - Closely held businesses
 - Succession planning, including buy-sell agreements, stock redemption agreements, intrafamily sales, and other vehicles
 - Dynasty trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), and other irrevocable trusts
- Advises clients on establishment of family charitable foundations, private operating foundations, and public charities
- Represents clients in trust and estate administration matters
- Represents clients in Will contests, trust reformation and construction actions, and nonjudicial settlement agreements
- Represents clients in preparation and negotiation of premarital agreements, postnuptial agreements, and cohabitation agreements
- Advised individuals with respect to various gift and estate planning techniques, including gifting of family business interests, grantor retained annuity trusts, sales to intentionally defective grantor trusts, qualified personal residence trusts, and charitable annuity trusts
- Represented closely held business in negotiating succession plan with key, long-term company employee
- Successfully represented multiple clients on audit by the Internal Revenue Service for issues related to federal and estate and gift tax returns



- Guides individuals, multigenerational families, and fiduciaries through estate (probate), trust, and guardianship administration
- Educates clients about charitable planning techniques and entities, establishing the philanthropic entity and advising on all administrative processes
- Specializes in the unique tools available for the protection of wealth owned or inherited by disabled individuals, including powers of attorney, special needs trusts, and guardianships
- Counsels stepparents through the court process of interfamily adoptions
- Prior to joining Burke Warren in 2009, Mary McWilliams served ultra-high-net-worth clients for eleven years in the private client department of McDermott, Will & Emery LLP. Mary began her legal career in 1995 at Mayer Brown & Platt as an income tax controversy attorney.
- Advises clients on a variety of family wealth preservation matters, including estate and gift planning; estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer tax issues; closely held businesses and succession planning; and privacy and asset protection

Insights

NEWS

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of Chicago Children's Museum 2022 Gala
News, [September 27, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of After School Matters
News, [September 15, 2022](#)

Burke Warren 2022 3L Minority Internship Program Participant Mathew Musipa Quoted in U of I Blog Article Entitled, "Immigration Law Clinic students win two asylum cases"
News, [September 15, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Selects Christine Eduardo and Mathew Musipa to Participate in the Burke Warren 2022 3L Minority Internship Program
News, [August 29, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Vino + Van Gogh 2022 Event
News, [August 24, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 2022 @gives back Golf Classic
News, [August 19, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 17th Annual Savills Landlord Challenge Charity Golf Event
News, [August 5, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Launch of New Firm Website Coincides with Firm's 30th Anniversary Milestone
News, [July 28, 2022](#)



Burke Warren Partner John Stephens Quoted in Crain's Chicago Article Entitled, "For Black lawyers, roadblocks to partnership persist"
News, [June 10, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago 2022 Heroes Breakfast
News, [May 4, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Cited In Chicago Tribune Article Regarding a Pro Bono Case Recently Undertaken by the Firm
News, [May 3, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of the GI Research Foundation 2022 Champions for a Cure Ball
News, [April 29, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Serves as Pro Bono Counsel in Federal Lawsuit Charging Advocate Health and Hospitals Corporation with Racial Discrimination
News, [April 21, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Welcomes Peter Ivancsits as Its Chief Financial Officer
News, [April 18, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Proud to Participate in the Chicago Bar Foundation's 2022 Investing in Justice Campaign
News, [April 6, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Member Firm of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
News, [February 21, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls of Chicago's 2022 Have Mercy! Gala
News, [February 9, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 2022 Entrepreneur and Family Business Council Gala
News, [January 25, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Named to Vault's 2022 20 Best Midsize Law Firms to Work For in Chicago
News, [December 2, 2021](#)

Adrian Atwater and Jolisa Warmack, Participants in Burke Warren's Inaugural 3L Minority Internship Program, Accept Offers to Join The Firm
News

ALERTS

New Corporate Transparency Act Requires Reporting of Company Owners to FinCEN
Alert, [January 8, 2021](#)

Financial Downturn Creates Estate Planning Opportunities
Alert, [April 3, 2020](#)



Burke Warren Remains Fully Committed to Client Service Through Remote Working Capabilities
Alert, [March 18, 2020](#)

The SECURE Act: Why You Should Revisit Your Retirement and Wealth Preservation Plans
Alert, [March 12, 2020](#)

The SECURE Act: Why You Should Revisit Your Retirement and Wealth Preservation Plans
Alert, [March 11, 2020](#)

2019 Year-End Tax Planning Summary
Alert, [December 3, 2019](#)

2018 Year-End Tax And Estate Planning Summary
Alert, [December 4, 2018](#)

2017 Year-End Tax Planning Summary
Alert, [December 5, 2017](#)

TAX ALERT: IRS Proposes to Eliminate Valuation Discounts for the Transfer of Interests in Family
Owned Entities
Alert, [August 16, 2016](#)

Litigation After Death: Or How To Avoid A Bad Heir Day
Alert, [August 4, 2016](#)

Living (And Dying) In A Digital World
Alert, [April 2016](#)

Vacation Homes: Rules of Engagement
Alert, [July 28, 2015](#)

Important Tax Saving Benefits Now Available to Illinois Same-Sex Couples
Alert, [November 11, 2014](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Ruling Finds Inherited IRAs Not Protected In Heir's Bankruptcy
Alert, [June 27, 2014](#)

Computer Forensics at BWM&S
Alert, [July 3, 2012](#)

Estate & Gift Tax Considerations: No Action Brings Significant Changes
Alert, [December 4, 2010](#)

Keeping Your Revocable Living Trust on Track
Alert, [July 27, 2010](#)