



## 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

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 Volunteer Legal Service Vino + Gogh 2023 Event  
News, [June 27, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago 2023 Heroes Breakfast  
News, [April 27, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of the Chicago Hope Academy 2023 Story of Hope Luncheon  
News, [April 11, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Member Firm of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
News, [April 4, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of the GI Research Foundation 2023 Annual Ball  
News, [February 20, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 2023 Better Business Bureau of Chicago Annual Dinner Meeting  
News, [February 8, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of One Tail at a Time 2023 Houndstooth Ball  
News, [February 7, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago 2023 Youth of the Year Competition & Dinner  
News, [January 20, 2023](#)



Burke Warren Partner John Stephens Named Advisory Board Member of AbstoneLalley, Inc.  
News, [January 16, 2023](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of Direct Effect Charities 2022 "Letters to Santa" Program  
News, [December 15, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Elects Joshua Cauhorn as Director  
News, [December 12, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Elects Jessica Cox as Shareholder  
News, [December 12, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Elects Stephen Schuster as Shareholder  
News, [December 12, 2022](#)

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year From Burke Warren!  
News, [December 6, 2022](#)

Christine Eduardo and Mathew Musipa, Participants in Burke Warren's Fall 2022 3L Minority Internship Program, Accept Offers to Join the Firm  
News, [December 5, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago 2022 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball  
News, [December 2, 2022](#)

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](#)