

Tessa Mielke

Partner

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Minneapolis – 612.492.6447



Tessa assists clients with tax and estate planning, business succession planning, estate and trust administration, and estate, gift, and income tax controversies.

Tessa has a broad tax and estate planning practice. She helps clients plan for and manage tax-efficient transfers of wealth to future generations by designing comprehensive estate plans that meet each client's unique goals, and by implementing those plans through advice regarding lifetime gifts and estate and trust administration. Tessa also advises clients regarding income tax and retirement planning, and represents taxpayers in federal and state income, gift, and estate tax controversies. Finally, Tessa regularly advises charitable organizations and individuals with charitable goals with respect to the formation and administration of public charities, private foundations, and charitable trusts.

Select Experience

- Prepares wills and revocable (living) trusts to plan for the transfer of assets at death.
- Prepares health care directives and financial powers of attorney to plan for incapacity.
- Helps high-net worth families design sophisticated lifetime gifting plans to transfer assets to later generations while minimizing income, estate, and gift taxes, including the use of irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs), grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), qualified personal residence trusts (QPRTs), and installment sales to intentionally defective grantor trusts (IDGTs).
- Assists family offices with designing and implementing complex estate plans for multiple generations of business owners.

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota State Bar Association, Member of the Probate and Trust Law Section Legislation Committee
- Hennepin County Bar Association

Education

- Harvard Law School (J.D., 2010)
 - *magna cum laude*; Executive Editor, *Harvard Law Review*
- Princeton University (A.B., 2007)
 - *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- Minnesota

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Sabathani Community Center, Board of Directors
- Active pro bono practice assisting new and existing nonprofit organizations

Accolades

- *Minnesota Lawyer*, Legal 250, 2026
 - *Minnesota Monthly*, "Top Lawyer in Trusts and Estates", 2024-2025
 - *Minnesota Super Lawyers*, "Rising Star", 2023-2025
 - *Minnesota Super Lawyers® Women's Edition*, "Rising Stars", 2024-2025
 - MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2014-2015 and 2022
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Insights

October 29, 2020

Spotlight on Flex: Tessa Mielke

December 21, 2017

New Tax Act