W. THOMAS BAXTER

TRUST & ESTATE PLANNING

PARTNER

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BIOGRAPHY

Tom Baxter, a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, focuses his practice on tax planning for individuals and businesses, estate planning, the administration of trusts and estates, and probate matters. He also represents clients in state and local tax matters, tax controversies, and issues of general business and corporate taxation, including matters with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition to his general practice areas, Tom also assists clients with a variety of related matters, including premarital agreements, succession planning, charitable planning, real estate matters, life insurance planning, asset protection and multi-generational trusts.

Tom previously served as the firm’s department head of Trust and Estate Planning.

EDUCATION

- Southern Methodist University School of Law, LL.M., Tax, 1979
- Southern Methodist University School of Law, J.D., 1978
- University of Arkansas, B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, 1975

NOTEWORTHY

- Former Adjunct Professor University of Arkansas School at Little Rock Bowen School of Law
    - Estate Planning
    - Estate and Gift Taxation
- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), Fellow
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*
    - Trusts and Estates, since 1993
    - Tax Law, since 2017
- Ranked in *Chambers High Net Worth*, Private Wealth Law, Arkansas, since 2017
- Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected to the *Mid-South Super Lawyers* List, since 2006
- Voted by the readers of *AY Magazine* for inclusion in the “Best Lawyers in Arkansas,” Trusts and Estates Law, 2018

Practice Areas

- Trust & Estate Planning
- Business, Corporate & Commercial
- Charitable Organizations & Giving
- Family Business Planning
- Probate & Trust Administration

Industries

- Agriculture & Agribusiness
- Banking & Finance
- Construction & Real Estate
- Energy, Natural Resources & Utilities
- Gaming & Horse Racing
- Healthcare, Medical & Pharmaceutical
- Insurance
- Manufacturing & Industrial
- Nonprofit & Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Transportation & Logistics
- Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT)

KEY MATTERS

- Drafting wills, revocable trusts, gifting trusts, irrevocable life insurance trusts and charitable trusts.
- Implementation of gift, estate, and generation-skipping transfer tax planning techniques to promote multi-generational wealth transfer with minimal tax consequences.
- Coordinating the transfer of closely-held business interests.
- Administration of trusts and estates.
- Preparation of estate and gift tax returns.
- Counsel for individuals and businesses on state and local tax matters with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association 1979 – present
- Arkansas Bar Association 1979 – present, Tax Section, President, past; Special Subcommittee on the Uniform Probate Code of the Arkansas Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Foundation 2015 – present
- Arkansas Board of Legal Specialization, Tax Specialty Committee, Past Member
- Arkansas Children's, Inc., Board of Directors 2015 – present
- Arkansas Children's Hospital, Inc., Board of Directors, 1995-2019, Chairman, 2012-2017
- Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation, Board of Directors, 1998-2012
- Arkansas Children's Physician Hospital Organization, 1995-2007; President, 2000-2002
- Arkansas Tax Advisory Council, Past Chair
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pulaski County, Board of Directors Past Member, President, 1991
- Blue Key
- Phi Delta Phi
- Pulaski County Bar Association
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- St. James United Methodist Church, Administrative Board; Chair, 1996-1997

ADMISSIONS

- Arkansas, 1978

RECOGNITION