PRACTICE AREA

Trust & Estate Planning

Comprehensive Trust & Estate Planning for Individuals, Families, and Business Owners—Preserving Wealth, Protecting Legacies, and Planning for the Future

Friday, Eldredge & Clark, wealth management is the core of our Trust and Estate Planning Practice Group. Our attorneys have experience with various complex estate plans, estate matters, trust administration, trust and estate controversies, preparation of gift and estate tax returns, review of fiduciary income tax returns and nonprofit trusts. The practice group focuses mostly on individuals and private clients, some of whom own businesses in almost all industry sectors.

Business owners, farmers and ranchers, physicians, lawyers and other professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, executives, retirees and their families all trust Friday, Eldredge & Clark for counsel on these matters. We not only help individuals but also family-owned businesses and all types of tax-exempt organizations. We also advise fiduciaries on the administration of estates and trusts.

We effectively counsel individual and corporate fiduciaries, executors, administrators, guardians, trustees and beneficiaries on the estate administration and settlement process, guiding them through the legal requirements imposed by the governing documents and state law as well as the tax compliance obligations for fiduciary income taxes, estate and gift taxes and generation-skipping transfer taxes.

Our Trust and Estate Planning attorneys are consistently highly ranked in legal publications. All of the group's partners are listed in *Best Lawyers In America* and some have been recognized in recent years as "Lawyer of the Year" for their work in Non-Profit/Charities Law. Additionally, *Best Lawyers/U.S. News* ranked the group the highest in the state in Non-Profit/Charities Law. Six of the group's attorneys were recognized as *Mid-South Super Lawyers and Chambers High Net Worth* recognized five of the group's attorneys for their work in Private Wealth Law. In the most recent issue, Chambers and Partners said of the firm's Trust and Estate Planning group:

One interviewee says "they are very forward-thinking and on top of changes in the tax law, and are helpful in restructuring existing estate plans to optimize tax efficiency."

Many of the attorneys in the Trust and Estate Planning practice area are Certified Public Accountants (inactive) and all have Master of Laws in Taxation. Six attorneys have been named as a Fellow by the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

SUMMARY

- **Tailored Estate Planning:** Developing customized strategies for asset protection, tax efficiency, and wealth transfer aligned with each client's goals.
- **Trusted Fiduciary Counsel:** Guiding executors, trustees, and administrators through estate and trust administration with accuracy and care.
- **Family Business Succession:** Structuring business transitions that preserve family harmony, reduce tax burdens, and protect legacy enterprises.
- **Charitable & Philanthropic Solutions:** Creating tax-efficient giving structures such as foundations, charitable trusts, and donor-advised funds.
- **Recognized Expertise:** A top-ranked team with advanced tax credentials, CPA backgrounds, and recognition from Chambers High Net Worth, Best Lawyers, and ACTEC.

Key Contacts

J. Lee Brown

PARTNER

LITTLE ROCK

501-370-1541

brown@fridayfirm.com

Areas of Focus

Estate Planning

The accumulation, preservation and transfer of your family's wealth are at the heart of our Trust and Estate Planning Practice Group. We are focused every day on helping our clients achieve these goals through comprehensive tax, business, and personal planning strategies. You receive personalized estate planning solutions to carry out your particular desires while minimizing taxes, maximizing financial benefits to your family and fulfilling your philanthropic objectives.

— Personal tax planning

— Business planning

— Retirement planning

— Life insurance planning

— Planning for disability and special needs

— Risk management and asset protection

— Family legacy and philanthropy

— Prenuptial/premarital agreements

Probate & Trust Administration

Your estate plan is effective only if it is properly executed and administered. Our lawyers will work with your executors and trustees in matters of probate and estate and trust administration to see that your wishes are carried out and your loved ones are protected.

Charitable Giving

If your plans include a significant role for philanthropy, we can help you maximize the impact of your giving by determining the most tax-efficient techniques and the most effective vehicles to accomplish your charitable objectives. Our lawyers are experienced in establishing family foundations and public charity-supporting organizations, as well as charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts, which benefit both family and charity while securing the advantages of income, estate, and gift tax deductions.

Family Business Planning

Family businesses pose special estate planning challenges, and Friday, Eldredge & Clark is skilled in all aspects of business asset and succession planning. We will help you achieve personal and business objectives through effective corporate and tax strategies. Our tax lawyers have advised the founders of many public and private companies on estate planning, business succession planning, and financial and liquidity planning.

Meet the Team

W. Thomas Baxter

Katie Watson Bingham

J. Lee Brown

Allison J. Cornwell

Byron M. Eiseman Jr.

Caleb D. Hollinger

Sarah Cotton Patterson

Jordan T. Sharp

K. Coleman Westbrook Jr.

Recognition