

Ann B. Burns

Principal



Direct: 612.632.3402
ann.burns@gpmlaw.com

Minneapolis, MN

80 South 8th Street
500 IDS Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 612.632.3000
Fax: 612.632.4444

Practices

- Family-Owned Business
- Charitable Gift Planning
- Trust, Estate & Charitable Planning
- Trust & Estate Litigation
- Litigation

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 1981
- Iowa State University, 1978, undergraduate degree

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota, 1982
- Wisconsin, 1981

Court Admissions

- U.S. Tax Court, 1981

Ann Burns assists business owners, families, and high-net-worth individuals in matters pertaining to estate and charitable gift planning, business succession planning, estate and trust administration, and fiduciary and tax litigation.

As a certified public accountant (inactive), Ann provides her clients with legal insight informed by a practical understanding of the intricacies of tax and financial planning. She represents multi-generational families of wealth throughout the country, assisting and guiding them in their relationships with trustees and other advisors. Ann also represents individual and corporate trustees in fiduciary controversies in state and federal courts.

While Ann's clients value the depth of her legal acumen, they also appreciate her sensitivity in navigating the unique interpersonal dynamics that can impact the estate planning process. She collaborates closely with her clients and their advisors to ensure a long-term plan that not only satisfies their financial needs, but also reflects their core personal values.

Ann previously served as chair of Gray Plant Mooty's Trust, Estate & Charitable Planning Practice Group. In recognition of her leadership and expertise in her field, Ann has been elected as treasurer of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, for which she has served as a regent since 2013. She has also served as a featured speaker for the Salvation Army's annual Estate and Charitable Gift Planning Institute.

Outside her legal practice, Ann serves as a member of the board of trustees for The Minneapolis Foundation, providing oversight and guidance for the foundation's efforts to promote education, economic development, and civic engagement in the Minneapolis community.

Recent Presentations

- **Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning, University of Miami School of Law**, frequent presenter from 2005-present on subjects including tax controversies; Section 2053 regulations; integrating estate plans with business succession planning; disclaiming assets, interests, and powers; and using exclusions
- **The Salvation Army - Annual Estate & Charitable Gift Planning Institute Seminar**, frequent co-presenter from 2014-present on subjects including representing families and fiduciaries; planning strategies for the small, medium, and large estate; tailoring estate planning by adapting traditional techniques; and estate planning check-ups
- **American College of Trust & Estate Counsel**, frequent co-presenter from 2012-present on subjects including handling the toughest issues in the operation and succession of a family business; estate planning best practices for large estate business interest owners; and estate planning strategies in current tax law environment
- **Annual Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium**, presenter from

2016-present on subjects including family businesses and ethical dilemmas that estate and business planners face

- **American Bar Association - Real Property, Trust & Estate Law Section CLE**, panelist in 2017 on disclaimers

Honors / Activities

Professional Activities

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), vice president, 2019; treasurer, 2018; regent, 2013–present; secretary, 2017; fellow, 1995–present; Business Planning Committee, chair, 2014–2018
- Law clerk for the Honorable Judge Donald R. Ross, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Honors and Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 1995–2019
- “Minnesota Super Lawyer®,” Thomson/Reuters, 2012–2019

Community Involvement

- The Minneapolis Foundation, Board of Trustees, 2011–present
- Greater Twin Cities United Way, Annual Campaign Cabinet, 2009–2011