

RONALD F. WAYNE

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ASSISTANT

Michele Peters | MPeters@bdblaw.com

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Trusts & Estates
Nonprofit & Foundation



I am a Certified Specialist in estate planning, trusts and probate law. I assist my clients with the efficient transfer of wealth from generation to generation, business succession plans, and probate and trust litigation matters. I help both Executors and Trustees manage substantial estate and trust administrations in Ohio and Florida.

I listen closely to individuals' and families' needs and desires so I can protect the assets they have worked hard to accumulate. I vigorously defend my clients against the Internal Revenue Service and minimize their income, estate or gift tax liabilities. For aging clients, I work to ensure your assets will be managed during your lifetime and distributed at your death exactly as you wish and without probate. For parents of children with dependencies, disabilities, or financial issues, my goal is to ensure that your children have a secure financial future. For business owners, I assist you in selling your business or transferring it to subsequent generations.

I design and implement estate plans based upon what is of importance to you. Simply put, I am here to protect your wealth, your business and your family.

EXPERIENCE

- Administers complex trusts and probate estates in Ohio and Florida
- Designs and implements multigenerational family estate and business succession plans
- Represents individuals before the Internal Revenue Service in estate, gift and personal income tax controversies
- Certified by the Ohio State Bar Association as a Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law under guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists
- Designated as an Accredited Estate Planner® (AEP) by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1978)

Cleveland State University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1974)

Admissions

Ohio

New Jersey

Florida

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Tax Court

U.S. Supreme Court

AWARDS & HONORS

Listed in Best Lawyers in America® (2010-2024)

Recognized in Best Lawyers Business Edition® for Trusts and Estates Law (2015)

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2004-2024), as voted by his peers

Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV® Preeminent™, which is the highest possible rating in both legal and ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

University Hospitals Planned Giving Advisory Committee

The Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Board Member
St. Basil the Great Parish, Finance, Endowment, and Annual Golf Outing Committees

Estate Planning Council of Cleveland

Case Western Reserve University Estate Planning Advisory Council

Past Affiliations

Estate Planning Council of Cleveland, Former Delegate
Society of Financial Services Professionals, Board Member
Elder Care Matters Alliance, Charter Member

Associations

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Probate and Estate Planning Section

Florida Bar Association

Real Property, Probate & Trust Section

Ohio State Bar Association

Elder Law Committee