

# Stephen J. Bahr

TRUSTS & ESTATES CHAIR

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As practice chair, Steve brings critical experience to the Trust and Estates practice and is well-equipped to deal with a variety of estate and business matters. Steve's practice focuses on estate planning, including health care documents, powers of attorney, wills and trusts, as well as business succession planning, inheritance and estate tax planning, and related tax return preparation. He routinely represents high net worth individuals and families on a variety of sensitive and complex estate and business planning matters.

Steve also assists with the administration of decedents' estates and the administration of trusts, including dispute resolution related to such administration. His estate planning practice includes the incorporation of certain sophisticated estate planning techniques, including lifetime gifting and legacy transfers, family limited partnerships, grantor trusts, charitable trusts, the use of irrevocable life insurance trusts and other trusts.

Steve actively serves as legal counsel and advisor to numerous closely-held businesses, advising them regarding various corporate matters, including the creation and development of business succession plans.

Prior to law school, Steve practiced as a Certified Public Accountant for seven years.

## Education

- Kansas State University (B.S.)
- University of Kansas School of Law (J.D.)

## Bar Admissions

- Kansas
- Missouri

## Memberships

- The Missouri Bar
- Johnson County Bar Association
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

## Capabilities

- Trusts & Estates
- Family Office

- Eastern Kansas Estate Planning Council
- Estate Planning Society of Kansas City, Missouri

#### **Civic and Charitable Affiliations**

- Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas
  - Board of Directors, 2006-2012, 2020-Present
  - Executive Committee, 2008-2010, 2020-Present
  - Treasurer and Finance Committee, Chair, 2008-2010
- Kansas City Symphony – Planned Giving Advisory Council

#### **Recognition**

- Selected for inclusion in *Missouri Lawyers Media's* POWER list for Top Missouri Tax and Real Estate Lawyers, 2025
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for Trusts and Estates, 2025-2026
- AV® Preeminent™ rating by *Martindale-Hubbell*
- Selected for inclusion in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*
- Certified Public Accountant (inactive)

## Matters

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- Represented founder/family in the transfer of a privately-held corporation from the founder/family to the company and eventually transforming to a 100% ESOP owned entity.
- Represent clients in business succession planning and coordinated estate planning.
- Represent clients in significant lifetime giving and legacy transactions.
- Represent clients in both judicial and non-judicial trust modifications.
- Represent clients in the resolution of trust or estate disputes.

## Publications

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November 11, 2024

**Federal Estate and Gift Tax Changes in 2026: What is on the Horizon, or Sunset Rather?**

June 29, 2022

**Estate Planning During Periods of Inflation and Market Volatility**