Charles Harris

Partner

Private Wealth

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Charles Harris counsels high-net-worth individuals and owners of closely-held businesses on matters related to tax and estate planning, wealth preservation and overall family governance. Charles is recognized as a leading attorney on tax and estate planning by the *Chambers High Net Worth* guide.

Recognized tax planning insight for US citizens who own closely-held companies and have foreign interests

Charles is a certified public accountant as well as a private practicing attorney. His experience includes restructuring stock ownership in closely-held businesses, establishing family-limited partnerships, creating various trusts and limited liability companies, analyzing the income, gift and estate tax implications of various techniques and developing business succession plans. Charles advises private equity investors in structuring their investments in a tax efficient manner and in planning for the transfer of their interests to family members. In addition, Charles counsels high-net-worth clients regarding family governance and related structures. He also advises investors of private and publicly traded companies to effectively plan for carried interests, stock options and retirement plans.

Charles works extensively on planning for US citizens with a foreign connection, whether the US citizen resides in a foreign country or is otherwise connected with a foreign government. He counsels clients who are non-resident aliens on the most tax-efficient manner for investing in US entities. He represents several companies in the US Virgin Islands that are part of the Economic Development Commission program and is involved in all aspects of the design, implementation and qualification of appropriate vehicles that can qualify for the benefits under the program, coordinating the overall income tax and estate planning needs of the owners of these companies.

For clients who are philanthropically minded, Charles assists in creating private foundations and other arrangements, such as charitable lead trusts and charitable remainder trusts, to help clients facilitate both charitable giving and tax efficiency.

Practices

- Business Succession Planning
- Charitable Planning, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations
- Corporate
- Private Wealth

Industries

- Family Offices
- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology
- BS, DePaul University

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Community Involvements

- Illinois State Bar Association
- The Chicago Bar Association, Trust Law Committee

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Partner

For 10 years, Charles teaches an Estate and Gift Tax Class for the Graduate Tax Program at The John Marshall Law School. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Charles has authored articles on such topics as generation skipping transfer tax planning, life insurance planning, tax payment clauses, and Illinois probate and trust administration.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
  - Fellow
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Trusts and Estates, 2016–2025
  - Lawyer of the Year
    - Trusts and Estates, Chicago, 2024
- *Chambers High Net Worth*
  - Illinois: Private Wealth Law, 2018–2024
- *Citywealth*
  - Leaderslist, 2015–2016
- *Leading Lawyers Network*
  - 2008–2013
- *Super Lawyers*
  - Illinois, 2005–2024

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers®* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Named Leader in *Chambers High Net Worth 2024* Guide (July 18, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers®* (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Awarded Top Distinctions in *Chambers High Net Worth 2023* Guide (July 20, 2023)

"He is very forward-thinking and innovative in crafting solutions. We view him as the architect of our tax and trust estate planning structure."

***Chambers High Net Worth* 2023 (Illinois, Private Wealth Law) survey response**

- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 24, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Score High in *Chambers High Net Worth 2022* Guide (July 14, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 28, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Selected for *Chambers High Net Worth 2021* Guide (July 22, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Chosen for 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- A Dozen Katten Partners Recognized in *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide (July 9, 2020)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2020)
- *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide Recognizes Katten's Private Wealth Practice (July 12, 2019)
- Super Lawyers Lists Honor More Than 50 Katten Attorneys in Illinois (January 24, 2019)
- Katten's "Top-Notch" Private Wealth Practice Praised in *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide (August 6, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2018 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Illinois *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Lists (January 13, 2017)
- Forty-Seven Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2016 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 8, 2016)
- 91 Katten Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2016 (August 17, 2015)
- Fifty-Three Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2015 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 12, 2015)

Charles Harris

Partner

- Fifty-Four Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2014 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 13, 2014)
- Sixty-Nine Katten Attorneys Included on 2013 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 4, 2013)
- Eighty-Six Katten Attorneys Named 2012 Illinois Super Lawyers (February 28, 2012)

Publications

- 2024 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 26, 2024)
- 2023 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2023)
- 2022 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 17, 2022)
- 2021 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 22, 2021)
- Proposed Tax Legislation Would Dramatically Impact Private Wealth Planning (September 24, 2021)
- 2021 Biden Plan Estate Planning Advisory (January 15, 2021)
- 2020 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 24, 2020)
- Looking Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis (March 23, 2020)
- 2019 Year-End Private Wealth Advisory (November 25, 2019)
- Katten Team Publishes 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Series (December 4–7, 2018)
- 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 19, 2018)
- The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Gift, Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Reform (February 28, 2018)
- 2017 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2017)
- 2016 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 21, 2016)
- 2015 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 23, 2015)
- Eight Key Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from the Supreme Court's Decision on Same-Sex Marriage (June 29, 2015)
- 2014 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 26, 2014)
- 2013 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 2013)
- Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from Recent Revenue Ruling Concerning Marriages of Same-Sex Couples (September 3, 2013)
- Estate Planning Opportunities Arising from Recent Landmark Supreme Court Decisions Concerning Marriages of Same-Sex Couples (June 28, 2013)

- Estate Planning After the Fiscal Cliff Deal (January 16, 2013)
- 2012 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2012)
- IRS Releases Guidance on Foreign Financial Asset Reporting (February 1, 2012)
- Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program Reopens (January 11, 2012)
- 2011 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 23, 2011)
- Extension and New Guidance for the Voluntary Disclosure Initiative for Undisclosed Foreign Assets (June 10, 2011)
- House Votes 277-148 to Approve Senate Tax Cut Extension Bill (December 17, 2010)
- 2010 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 2010)
- 2010 Estate Tax Planning Strategies—Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunities vs. Potential Traps for the Unwary (September 21, 2010)
- HIRE Act Affects Foreign Trusts and Imposes Additional Requirements on US Persons with Foreign Accounts (March 24, 2010)
- US Government Acts Quickly to Help Haiti with Tax Benefits for Donors (February 2, 2010)
- Hooray, There's No Estate Tax: Now What Do I Do? (January 7, 2010)
- Possible One-Year Elimination of Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax in 2010: Going, Going, Gone? (December 23, 2009)
- 2009 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (December 2009)
- Illinois Passes State QTIP Legislation—Does Your Estate Plan Need to Be Updated to Take Advantage? (September 28, 2009)
- Changes to New York Powers of Attorney Effective September 1 (July 28, 2009)
- 2008 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (December 2008)
- New Expatriation Legislation Passed Unanimously by Congress and Signed by President (June 2008)
- Opportunities: Cloud Over Economy Creates Estate Planning Silver Lining (February 2008)

Presentations and Events

- Annual Katten Private Wealth & Fiduciary Seminar (October 11, 2023)

- Annual Katten Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar (September 22, 2022)
- Katten Virtual Private Wealth Seminar (October 14, 2020) | *Speaker* | *Advising UHNW Families During a Period of Seismic Changes*
- Katten Private Wealth Fiduciary Seminar (October 15, 2019) | *Speaker*