



John W. Spellman

Counsel

Private Wealth

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John W. Spellman is a private client services attorney who serves as general counsel to high-net-worth individuals, their families and their businesses.

Strong experience leads to a wealth of knowledge

John focuses his practice on domestic and international estate and tax planning, and the administration of complex estates and trusts. John has experience drafting wills, complex trusts and other estate planning instruments designed to preserve wealth and provide for future generations. He also advises clients on business succession planning, family wealth preservation, and estate and trust administration.

During law school, John served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Paul L. Friedman of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and as an honors intern for the United States Department of the Treasury.

Publications

- 2025 – 2026 Planning Priorities (November 19, 2025)
- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Key Year-End Tax Changes for Private Wealth Clients (November 19, 2025)
- Select Updates Impacting Family Business Owners (November 19, 2025)
- Select Federal Caselaw Updates (November 19, 2025)
- Relevant International Updates (November 19, 2025)
- State of the States (November 19, 2025)
- Planning Considerations for the Rest of 2025 and Into 2026 (November 19, 2025)
- 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)

Practices

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

Industries

- Private Client Services

Education

- LLM, New York University School of Law
- JD, American University Washington College of Law
- BA, Xavier University

Bar Admissions

- California
- Florida
- District of Columbia

Community Involvements

- American Bar Association
- Florida Bar Association, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, Tax Section
- State Bar of California, Trusts and Estates Section

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- 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)