

Marla G. Franzese

Senior Counsel

Private Wealth

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Marla Franzese concentrates her practice in estate planning and administration. She ensures her clients peace of mind knowing that the future of their loved ones is secure.

Saving on taxes while securing a family's future

Marla represents high-net-worth individuals, primarily living in the tri-state area, who want to maximize their tax savings and ensure that their wishes are fulfilled postmortem. She excels at drafting complex estate planning documents, and after practicing for more than 30 years in estates and trusts, she is well-versed in helping clients and their families in the most efficient manner possible.

Marla thoroughly understands her clients' business issues and she takes a personal interest in finding each client the most appropriate estate planning technique for their situation and family.

While attending law school, Marla was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

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)
- Planning Considerations for the Rest of 2025 and Into 2026 (November 19, 2025)
- Select Federal Caselaw Updates (November 19, 2025)
- State of the States (November 19, 2025)
- Relevant International Updates (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
- Private Wealth

Industries

- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, Columbia Law School
- BA, The University of Chicago

Bar Admissions

- New York

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association

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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)
- 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)
- 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)
- The New York Non-Profit Revitalization Act of 2013 – Important Changes Affecting New York Nonprofit Entities and Charitable Trusts (February 24, 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)
- 2011 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 23, 2011)
- House Votes 277-148 to Approve Senate Tax Cut Extension Bill (December 17, 2010)
- 2010 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 2010)
- Important Changes to New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law (October 14, 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)
- 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)

Presentations and Events

- 2026 Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar New York (November 4, 2026) | *Speaker* | *Trust Me, It's Complicated: Advanced Drafting Ideas for Wealthy Clients*
- 2025 Private Wealth Seminar – New York (September 10, 2025)