Matthew Sperry

Partner

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Practices

FOCUS: Private Wealth

Business Succession Planning

Charitable Planning, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations

Corporate

International

International Private Wealth

Investment Management and Funds

Real Estate

Transactional Tax Planning

Industries

Family Offices

Private Client Services

Education

University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, *Masters in Tax Law*

JD, University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law

BBA, University of Florida

Bar Admissions

Illinois

New York

Florida

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Community Involvements

International Bar Association

Global Leaders Forum (Wealth Management)

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)

Matthew Sperry is an international private client attorney whose practice is devoted to making it easier for global ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families to access the United States, whether it be for investment, spending time in the US or utilizing US trust and other structures to advance personal goals or otherwise. He believes in using state-of-the-art trust, corporate, family office, fund and other US legal concepts to develop simple but effective wealth succession and family governance structures that minimize global tax and reporting burdens, foster privacy, protect personal wealth and advance family harmony, leaving his clients to focus on enjoying their hard earned wealth. Matthew's client base includes individuals and families in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Canada.

Solving tax and structuring challenges for ultra-high-net-worth clients

Matthew routinely addresses complex tax issues confronted by ultra-high-net-worth individuals, families and family offices as they interact with the United States. He has designed family trust structures optimized for global taxation challenges, privacy, wealth transfer, asset protection and global information reporting compliance (including obligations under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and the global common reporting standards (CRS)). He often assists clients in structuring and operating family offices.

When advising on direct investing activities, Matthew offers a comprehensive approach that addresses the particular needs of his clients, including concerns relating to family governance, privacy, investment strategies and cross-border tax structuring. He regularly assists clients in navigating the complex cultural, legal, tax and business challenges posed by cross-border direct investing transactions.

Matthew Sperry

Partner

"'Matt is commercial, practical and completely dependable, he takes the time to understand the client's needs and is willing to invest in a relationship,' comments an interviewee."

- Chambers HNW 2018 (Illinois, Private Wealth Law) survey response

In addition to serving ultra-high-net-worth individuals and family offices, Matthew also advises private investment funds, private equity managers, venture capital firms and commodity pool operators. He has broad experience dealing with securities issues that can arise when families desire to raise capital from sources both inside and outside of the United States.

Matthew regularly travels within the United States and throughout the world to provide his clients with personal attention and superior service. He often works with other advisers (including accountants, trustees and financial advisers) in representing clients that interact with multiple countries.

Matthew's tax experience includes serving as a law clerk to Judge Carolyn P. Chiechi of the US Tax Court in Washington, DC.

Representative Experience

- Represented London-based sponsor of private US real estate investments for global ultra-high-net-worth families and family offices. Designed and implemented investment structures to shield non-US investors from US estate taxes while minimizing US income tax leakage. Addressed investor concerns regarding US tax reporting such as how to manage tax reporting so that they personally do not have to file income tax returns in the United States. Advised as to each investment structure's requirements under US FATCA and global Common Reporting Standards. Identified and solved US tax issues that arose post-investment, including when non-US family investors wanted to sell or otherwise redeem their investments.*
- Represented a prominent US family with an existing US-based family office in establishing a new family office branch in Switzerland.*
- Represented a UK-based family office of an ultra-high-net-worth Asian family in a comprehensive review of the US tax exposure related to the family office's activities in the United States.*

- Designed and implemented US tax-efficient structure to permit an ultra-high-net-worth Mexican family to gift global family assets to their US-resident child.*
- Represented one of the leading Channel Islands-based trust companies in providing US estate and income tax advice in connection with re-domiciling a non-US trust structure (for the benefit of an ultra-high-net-worth Middle Eastern family) from South America to the Channel Islands.*
- Represented a Zurich-based trust company in the US tax consequences of a proposed plan to decant a series of longstanding non-US trusts to new non-US trusts.*
- Represented a Zurich-based trust company in identifying the US estate, gift and income tax exposure to a longstanding non-US trust settled by an ultra-high-net-worth US family. Identified all US tax-related issues and formulated a strategy to ameliorate such issues. Also developed a global restructuring plan to reorganize trust assets in a US tax-efficient manner.*
- Represented a US- and Singapore-based sponsor of US real estate investments for ultra-high-net-worth Asian individuals and families. Provided US tax structuring and investment fund advice to facilitate pooled investments of Asia-based private capital. Ultimately eliminated US estate tax exposure while maximizing investor returns on an after-tax basis.*
- Represented a Fortune Global 100 company in disposition of a global manufacturing division conducting business in more than 25 countries. Led cross-border team of 20+ lawyers.*
- Represented the family office of an ultra-high-net-worth family in its investment in global oil and gas properties, including the negotiation of a long-term development arrangement.*
- [Represented a Fortune Global 100 company in acquiring a water treatment business conducted in 15 countries.*

- Represented the family office of an ultra-high-net-worth family in acquiring a Manhattan hotel and its redevelopment into a mixed-use project.*
- Represented an ultra-high-net-worth family in acquiring a global hotel management company.*
- Represented the family office of an ultra-high-net-worth family in acquiring a German-based manufacturer of precision industrial equipment.*
- Represented the family office of an ultra-high-net-worth family in acquiring via Section 363 bankruptcy proceeding a leading developer of road and paving technologies.*
- Represented a Fortune Global 500 company in disposition of its coffee business to a strategic buyer.*
- Represented an ultra-high-net-worth family in acquiring numerous private aircraft, including developing and implementing a tax-efficient structure for the aircraft and registering the aircraft with the FAA.*

*Experience prior to Katten

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers High Net Worth*
  - Illinois: Private Wealth Law, 2018–2023
- *Citywealth*
  - Top 100 Global Tax Professionals, 2023
- *Legal Week*
  - Private Client Global Elite, 2018–2019, 2021–2023

News

- Katten Awarded Top Distinctions in *Chambers High Net Worth 2023* Guide (July 20, 2023)
- *Citywealth* Interviews London-Based Partner Matthew Sperry About Representing UHNW Individuals and Families (February 27, 2023)
- Partner Matthew Sperry IDs Major Trust Dispute Trends in Coriats Q&A (February 8, 2023)
- Four Private Wealth Partners Features in the 2023 Private Client Global Elite Directory (December 28, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Score High in *Chambers High Net Worth 2022* Guide (July 14, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Selected for *Chambers High Net Worth 2021* Guide (July 22, 2021)
- Katten Private Wealth Attorneys Listed in Global Elite Directory 2021 (February 2, 2021)
- A Dozen Katten Partners Recognized in *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide (July 9, 2020)
- *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide Recognizes Katten's Private Wealth Practice (July 12, 2019)
- Katten Welcomes Leading International Private Client Partner Matthew Sperry (February 19, 2019)

Publications

- 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)
- Tax on Inbound Investment 2019, United States Chapter (January 2019)

Presentations and Events

- 5th International Trusts and Commercial Litigation Conference (November 14, 2022) | *Panelist* | *Litigation in the new world order- the disputes of the future*
- STEP LatAm Conference: Building Knowledge Across Borders Advising Families Today and Tomorrow (October 14–15, 2021) | *Co-presenter* | *Case Law: LatAm Families With Trusts Under Attack*
- US Series: Direct Investment into the US (March 4, 2021) | *Panelist*
- Katten Virtual Private Wealth Seminar (October 14, 2020) | *Speaker* | *Advising UHNW Families During a Period of Seismic Changes*
- US/UK Cross Border Estates (June 23, 2020) | *Panelist*
- Moving to the US — Tax and Immigration Issues (May 26, 2020) | *Participant*
- United States Structuring Opportunities for Russia and Other CIS Clients: Succession Planning and Asset Protection (March 24, 2020) | *Host*
- Private Client Forum Americas 2020 (February 5–7, 2020) | *Speaker*
- 4th International Trusts and Commercial Litigation Conference 2019 (November 11, 2019) | *Panelist* | *Trusts Breakout Session*
- Katten Private Wealth Fiduciary Seminar (October 15, 2019) | *Speaker*

- 2nd Annual Wealth Management Forum (September 10–11, 2019) | *Co-moderator* | *Different Standards: the Growing Divide Between the US and Europe on Standards*
- Transcontinental Trusts: International Forum (June 6–7, 2019) | *Panelist* | *Inbound Planning to the UK for US Citizens*
- Private Client Forum Americas (March 27–29, 2019) | *Panelist* | *Look outside of the box and choose the right structure: Tiny boxes*
- STEP Roundtable, Law Society (June 28, 2018) | *Panelist* | *A progressive shift - current trends and the impact of increasing global transparency on family offices*
- STEP Cayman Conference (January 30, 2018) | *Presenter* | *Are There Golden Rules In Wealth Structuring*
- STEP Roundtable (October 2017) | *Panelist* | *Global Reporting and the Challenges of Supporting Multijurisdictional Clients*
- 12th Annual Fiduciary Advisory Services Seminar (October 4, 2017) | *Speaker* | *Cross-Border Estate Planning, Issues Confronting Institutional Fiduciaries*
- STEP Roundtable, Law Society (June 2017) | *Panelist* | *Governance Tools and Mechanisms for Global Family Wealth Structuring*
- New Developments in Tax and Wealth Planning Seminar (April 25, 2017) | *Speaker* | *Cross Border Estate and Tax Planning*
- Estate Planning – Beyond the Basics (April 2017) | *Presenter* | *Cross Border Estate and Income Tax Planning*
- 11th Annual Fiduciary Advisory Services Seminar (October 5, 2016) | *Speaker* | *Foreign Investment into the United States – Opportunities for U.S. Trust Companies*