



Dennis C. Brown

Of Counsel

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Profile

Dennis concentrates on trust and estate planning for high net worth individuals and families. He utilizes a wide range of sophisticated techniques to protect assets, minimize taxes and provide practical approaches to accomplish his clients' long term financial security and wealth transfer goals.

Dennis is a Florida licensed certified public accountant. With that financial and tax background, he is frequently asked to address tax compliance, closely held business valuation and tax litigation matters. In his trust and estate law practice, Dennis draws from his diversified background in business management and business law, which includes experience designing compensation plans; and handling mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations, and international transactions.

For clients with closely held business interests, Dennis utilizes his broad business background to develop creative, tax efficient estate plans that may include family compensation planning, ownership transition planning, management succession planning and sometimes liquidation planning.

Recent representative engagements include:

- Developing an estate plan, ownership transition plan and management succession plan for a privately held family business with over \$750 million in revenue.
- Designing a series of business entities and trusts with different tax attributes that have allowed family members to pass several hundred million dollars in assets to future generations without paying gift, estate or generation skipping taxes.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *Martindale-Hubbell*®, AV Preeminent Rated
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021, Litigation and Controversy - Tax; Tax Law (listed for more than 5 years)
 - *Best Lawyers 2021 Fort Myers Tax Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Best Lawyers 2016 Fort Myers Tax Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Best Lawyers 2013 Fort Myers Tax Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Naples Illustrated Top Lawyers*® 2020, Tax Law

Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *with honors*, 1984)
- Pennsylvania State University (B.S., *with honors*, 1975)

Bar/Court Admissions

- Florida
- New York
- U.S. Tax Court
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

Practices

- Exempt Organizations
- Trust and Estate
- Tax Law

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Florida Bar
- Collier County Bar Association
 - Medal of Honor Award for Professionalism, 2019
- Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants

Representative Publications

- Highlighted in "Finding lasting happiness in selfless service," *Naples Florida Weekly*, July 7, 2016

Other Activities

- Vice Chair and Board Member, Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida Foundation
- Finance Committee, Governance Committee and Board Member, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida
- Former Adjunct Professor of Law (Taxation), Syracuse University College of Law
- Former Adjunct Professor of Accounting and Finance, Le Moyne College
- Former Treasurer, Executive Committee, Board Member and Board Chairman, Community Foundation of Collier County, Inc."
- Former Treasurer, Executive Committee and Board Member, Collier Health Services, Inc.
- Former Treasurer and Board Member, Park Shore Association, Inc.