HENSON EFRON

CHRISTOPHER J. BURNS — ATTORNEY, SHAREHOLDER

Contact

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Profile

Christopher J. Burns is a Shareholder at Henson Efron and chairs the Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Practice Group. He is also active in the management of Henson Efron, as a member of the firm's Compensation Committee. Christopher focuses his practice on estate planning, antenuptial (prenuptial) agreements, business succession planning, elder law, and estate administration. His expertise includes the planning and preparation of wills, revocable trusts, family cabin trust / Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs), qualified domestic trusts (QDOTs), family limited partnerships (FLPs), grantor trusts (GRATs), intentionally defective grantor trusts (IDGTs), charitable remainder trusts (CRTs), charitable lead trusts (CLTs), private foundations, health care directives, financial powers of attorney, special needs trusts, supplemental needs trusts, and beneficiary designations for life insurance and retirement plans. Christopher also helps families with guardianships and conservatorships, and devotes a significant portion of his practice to the administration and taxation of trusts and estates (including contested estate and trust matters).

Christopher frequently teaches continuing education courses to other lawyers, accountants, financial advisors, and others on a wide variety of estate planning, business succession planning, and estate administration related topics.

Christopher has always been active in the community, and he has received recognition by a radio station which named him their "Hero of the Week," by the Minnesota State Bar Association as a "North Star Lawyer" for his commitment in providing pro bono work, and by Woodbury Magazine. In addition, Christopher serves his community through prominent roles in local government and a commitment to education.

Christopher and his family are active members of their church. Christopher enjoys reading, writing, politics, bicycling, basketball, and spending time with his wife and children.

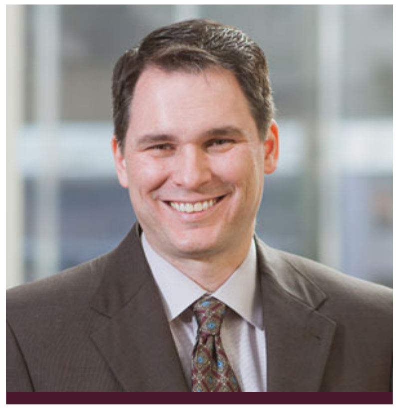
Professional Memberships

- Member, Minnesota Planned Giving Council; Leave a Legacy Steering Committee, 2015-2016
- Planning Committee Member, Minnesota CLE Probate & Trust Law Section Conference, 2011-2015
- Board Member, Lutheran Social Service Foundation, 2010-2013
- Member, Cornerstone Council of the St. Paul Community Foundation/Minnesota Community Foundation, 2009-2014
- Member, Children's Legacy Advisors, 2015-2016
- Member, Past President, Minneapolis and St. Paul Financial and Estate Planning Councils, 2001-present
- Member, Minnesota State Bar Association, 1999-present
- Member, Hennepin County Bar Association, 1999-present
- Member, Washington County Bar Association, 2002-present
- Member, Christian Legal Society, 2009-present
- Past Chair, Hennepin County Bar Association's Probate and Trust Law Section

Professional /Academic Honors

- Five Star Estate Planning Attorney for work and dedication in providing quality services to his clients, 2014, 2015; Selected by Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine and Twin Cities Business
- North Star Lawyer, Honored by Minnesota State Bar Association for commitment to pro bono service, 2013-2015
- *AV® Preeminent peer review rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Minnesota Super Lawyers-Rising Stars Edition: Selected 2006-2012
- Super Lawyers: Selected 2014–2016
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® 2018, Trusts & Estates

Publications



Practice Areas

- Estate, Trust and Probate
  - Business Succession Planning
  - Estate and Trust Administration
  - Estate and Trust Litigation
  - Estate Planning
  - Gift and Estate Tax
  - Guardianships and Conservatorships
- Tax
  - Estate and Gift Tax
  - Tax Controversy and Dispute Resolution
  - Tax Opinions
  - Tax-Exempt Organizations

Additional Services

- Prenuptial, Postnuptial and Cohabitation Agreements

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota
- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

Education

- J.D. cum laude, Syracuse University College of Law, 1999
- B.A., University of Wisconsin, River Falls, 1995

- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "Charitable Components of Estate Planning" Minnesota CLE, 2015
- Co-Author, "Chapter 8 – Trustees' Duties, Powers, and Liabilities," Minnesota Trust Administration Handbook, Minnesota CLE, 2014
- Author and Co-Presenter, "Driving Miss Daisy: Which Charitable Vehicle Do You Suggest?," CPE seminar, 2011
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "Raiders of the Life Insurance Trust: Holy Grail or Temple of Doom?" Minnesota CLE – Probate and Trust Law Section Conference, June 2011
- Co-Author, "Shifts in the Estate Tax Landscape: The 2010 Tax Relief Act," Bench & Bar of Minnesota, April 2011
- Co-Author and Presenter, "Estate Planning for the Family Cabin," Fall 2010
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "Planning Techniques for Disabled Individuals With a Focus on Supplemental Needs Trusts," CPE seminar
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "Estate Planning: It's Never Too Late!" CPE seminar
- Good Age Columnist, newspaper, 2006-2008
    - "Going to the chapel, prenup in hand,"
    - "Leaving on a jet plane? Leave an estate plan behind,"
    - "Feeling sandwiched?"
    - "Getting professional help from a geriatric care manager,"
    - "Death and taxes often go together,"
    - "First steps in a tough time,"
    - "Elvis or elevator music? Making funeral plans in advance,"
    - "When I die…"
    - "Estate planning and charitable giving go hand in hand."
- Author and Presenter, "A Practical Look at the New Conservatorship Claims Statute," MAGiC Journal
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "So You Think Your Client Needs a Trust," Minnesota CLE – Probate and Trust Law Section Conference
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter, "How to Draft a Simple Will," Minnesota CLE – New Lawyers Experience, 2003-2010
- Co-Author, "Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts," Minnesota CLE – Probate and Trust Law Section Conference, 2001
- Co-Author, "Estate Tax Marital Deduction: A Minnesota Attorney Handbook," Minnesota CLE, 2004

Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "Heckerling Update," Twin Cities Estate Planning Council, January 2016
- Moderator, "Experienced Corporate Trustee Panel," Twin Cities Financial & Estate Planning Council, January 2014
- Co-Presenter, "Estate Planning for Unmarried Couples," Financial Planning Association, October 2013
- Co-Presenter, "DTT (Divorce, Death and Taxes)," 39th Annual Probate and Trust Law Section Conference, June 2013
- Co-Presenter, "Estate Planning in Uncertain Times: Divorce, Death and Taxes," Twin Cities Estate Planning Council, October 2012
- Presenter, "Estate Planning for the Family Cabin," St. Croix Advisors, June 2011
- Presenter, "Preparing Your Estate Plan," Edward Jones, Spring 2011
- Presenter, "Non-Traditional Estate Planning – Brady Bunch to Modern Family," AdvisorNet, Spring 2011
- Presenter, Estate Planning for Mid-Career and Pre-Retirement Professionals, Ft. Snelling federal employees seminars, 2002-2013
- Presenter, "Estate Taxes in 2011 & Beyond," Thrivent National Sales Telephone Conference, Spring 2011
- Presenter, "Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts," Thrivent National Sales Meeting, Fall 2010
- Featured Co-Presenter, "Estate Planning and the Use of Trusts," Ameriprise Affluent Client Seminar Series, April 2010
- Presenter, "Estate Planning in Uncertain Times," Association of Lutheran Development Executives, April 2010
- Presenter, "You Can't Take 'It' With You – How You Can Leave 'It' Behind," Farmers Insurance Advanced Life Training Luncheon; Cardinal Pointe Cooperative; Woodbury Lutheran Church; CPE Seminar; and other seminars

Community Activities

Educational

- Voting Director, South Washington County Scholarship Committee for 2018
- Member, Dean's Council, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, College of Business and Economics
- Past Chair and Past Member, Board of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, appointed by Governor Pawlenty
- Past Volunteer and Presenter, Gathering of Champions and Academic All-Star Students
- Past Mentor, St. Thomas Law School students

Civic / City of Woodbury

- Member, Woodbury City Council, elected 2010 and again in 2014
- Chair, City of Woodbury Audit and Investment Commission, 2016
- Chair, Woodbury Street Rehabilitation Task Force, selected as Chair by fellow council members in 2013

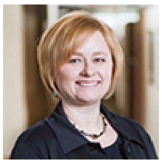
- Past Commissioner, Woodbury Economic Development Commission
- Past Chair, Woodbury Business Development Committee

News Media Coverage

- Guest Appearance, ABC News Good Morning America and KSTP-TV on the topic of estate planning and Minnesota's intestate laws
- Guest Appearance, KARE-11 on the topic of estate planning considerations for pet owners
- Guest Appearance, WCCO-TV's 4 News on Sunday on the topic of estate planning
- Guest Appearances, WCCO-Radio on various estate planning topics
- Featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune's Today's Spotlight
- Featured in Woodbury Magazine article regarding Christopher's community and education work

Assistant Contact Info

Tami Williams; (612) 252-2872



Tara Solander-Lee, Paralegal; (612) 252-2896

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