goulston&storrs

Mark D. Balk

Director

mbalk@goulstonstorrs.com
Boston: +1 617 574 4017

Mark Balk is a trusts and estates attorney who handles the full range of estate planning and related personal legal matters, advising on tax and non-tax considerations pertaining to the ownership, management and transfer of wealth.

Mark guides individuals and families through the process of optimum ownership structuring of family assets to minimize taxes and liability exposures while achieving other family objectives, providing for generation-to-generation continuity and the perpetual preservation and growth of family wealth. Mark also works closely with families to develop charitable giving programs and establish and administer substantial charitable foundations.

Mark is actively involved in the administration and investment of trusts and estates and advises non-profit organizations. He is experienced in the provision of family office and financial administration services as well. Mark is particularly knowledgeable about trust investment matters.

Accolades

- Chambers High Net Worth (HNW)
  - Individual Ranking, 2016-2020
  - Band 1 Firm Ranking, 2017-2020
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Trusts and Estates, 2006-2021
- Massachusetts Super Lawyer, 2004-2020
- Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent ™

Admissions

- New York
- Massachusetts

Affiliations

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- Member, Trustee Advisory Board, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Boston Probate and Estate Planning Forum

Education

- Northwestern University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1978)
- Harvard Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 1981)

Representative Matters

Charitable Giving and Entity Structures
Advising families on charitable giving and entity structure to minimize income and wealth transfer taxes.

Estate and Trust Administration Fiduciary Duties and Tax Law
Advising professional and family executors and trustees in understanding fiduciary duties and tax laws in connection with the administration of estates and trusts.

Trust and Trustee Succession Arrangements
Drafting and implementing revocable and irrevocable trust arrangements to take advantage of income and wealth transfer planning opportunities. Advising on the selection of trustees and implementing appropriate trustee succession arrangements.

Wealth Transfer Planning
Continuous, on-going wealth transfer planning for numerous clients of very substantial means.

Asset Transfer Planning
Planning significant asset transfers where substantial appreciation in value was anticipated, employing Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts ("GRATs") and other techniques (including transfers in anticipation of possible liquidity events).

Defective Grantor Trusts
Use of so-called "defective grantor trusts."

Use of Life Insurance in Estate Planning
Advice on sophisticated uses of life insurance in estate planning.

Real Estate Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist and Private Equity Principal Wealth Transfer Planning

Wealth transfer planning for real estate entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and other private equity principals.

Family Foundation Creation and Implementation of Grant-Making Programs
Creation of family foundations and guidance to the clients involved regarding the formulation and implementation of family grant-making programs.

Financial and Legal Planning in Sale of Family's Interest in Company
Financial and legal planning in connection with the sale of family’s interest in a large company.

Family Trust Divorce Planning
Planning with respect to the handling of family trusts in connection with divorce, including decanting and other techniques.