Estate Planning and Personal Services

Krieg DeVault estate planning and administration lawyers have earned the confidence of individuals, families, entrepreneurs, business owners, trustees, and professional advisors. Our lawyers are well-versed in assisting families with their estate planning needs from individuals just starting their professional careers to those that have retired or have accumulated significant wealth during their careers or from a significant liquidation event, triggering the need to consider Federal gift and estate taxes. Our sophisticated estate and tax planning strategies help clients provide for their own, current needs as well as the future needs of beneficiaries, by planning techniques designed to minimize transfer taxes, preserve assets, continue or plan for the eventual sale or transition of closely held businesses, and fulfill charitable goals. We customize wills, trust agreements, and succession plans to each client's specific needs and family circumstances. Our ability to handle complex estate planning, business succession planning, administration, and litigation issues reflects the credentials of an experienced team, with attorneys licensed in Indiana, Florida, Illinois, and Michigan, including multiple Board Certified Estate Planning and Administration Specialists, certified by the Trust and Estate Specialty Board with the State of Indiana, nationally recognized certification through the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and CPA certification. Whether an estate plan involves a simple will or a series of complex trusts, our lawyers work to handle all the details while carrying out client wishes with minimum cost and maximum efficiency.

Focus Areas

Estate Planning

- Last Wills and Testaments
- Revocable Trusts
- Gift, Estate and Generation Skipping Transfer Tax Planning (including complex trust planning)
- Lifetime gift programs
- Qualified Personal Residence Trusts (QPRTs)
- Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts (GRATs)
- Marital Trusts and Marital Deduction Planning
- Credit Shelter Trusts

- Planning with Life Insurance
- Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts (ILITs)
- Life insurance policy sales
- General Durable Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives for Healthcare Decisions
- Spousal Lifetime Access Trusts (SLATs)
- Intentionally Defective Grantor Trusts (IDGTs)
- Irrevocable Gift Trusts

Trust and Estate Litigation

- Will & Trust Contests
- Creditors' claims
- Trust disputes
- Beneficiary and trust litigation
- Undue influence
- Mental unsoundness
- Breach of fiduciary duty
- Abuses in the use of Powers of attorney
- Fraud
- Fiduciary Litigation
  - Will Contest
- Probate, Trust and Fiduciary Appellate Law
- Tax Litigation (Federal Gift, Estate, and Generation Skipping Tax as well as Indiana Inheritance Tax)
- Claim Disputes
- Accounting Disputes

Business Succession

- Life insurance policy sales

- Planning with Life Insurance
- Business Reorganization
- Transition planning including Complex Trusts
- Split-Dollar Life Insurance
- Life Insurance Trusts and Partnerships
- Buy-Sell Agreements/Cross-Purchase Agreements

Estate and Trust Administration

- Estate administration
- Probate administration
- Estate tax return preparation
- Inheritance tax return preparation
- Trust administration
- Fiduciary income tax
- Creditor protection issues
- Marital deduction elections and qualified terminable interest property
- Closely held business exceptions
- Special use valuation for farmland
- Installment payment opportunities for the tax on closely-held business interests
- Corporate Stock Redemption for Payment of estate taxes and expenses

Personal Services

- Guardianships
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Mental Commitments

Charitable Planning

- Charitable Gift Planning

- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Annuities
- Nonprofit Incorporation
- Application for Exemption
- Public Charity Compliance
- Private Foundation Compliance
- Private Foundation Administration
- Evaluation and Due Diligence for Private Foundations
- Charitable Gift Planning and Administration