

Unparalleled Experience

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen offer exceptional estate planning services with a commitment to understand and implement the specific directives, desires, and needs of each individual client. The Firm's experienced attorneys assist clients in protecting their wealth from unnecessary transfer taxes and ensure that distributions to intended benefi ciaries reflect the clients' wishes. The Firm's estate planning practice includes the creation of trusts, wills, asset protection strategies, and trust administration. The Firm's litigators are experienced and skilled in estate and probate administration and litigation.

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Hutchison & Steffen is a full-service law firm practicing in the following areas:

- Administrative & Regulatory Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Litigation
- Asset Protection & Business Planning
- Banking
- Bankruptcy & Creditor's Rights
- Business Law & Commercial Litigation
- Condemnation Law
- Constitutional Law
- Construction Law
- Corporate & Commercial Law
- Election, Campaign, & Political Law
- Employment & Labor Law
- Family Law
- Healthcare Professionals Advocacy
- Human Resources Support
- Insurance Litigation
- Landlord/Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Professional Liability Defense
- Public Entity Law
- Public Interest & Nonprofit Organizations
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Audits & Litigation
- Trust & Probate Litigation
- Workers' Compensation

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ATTORNEYS

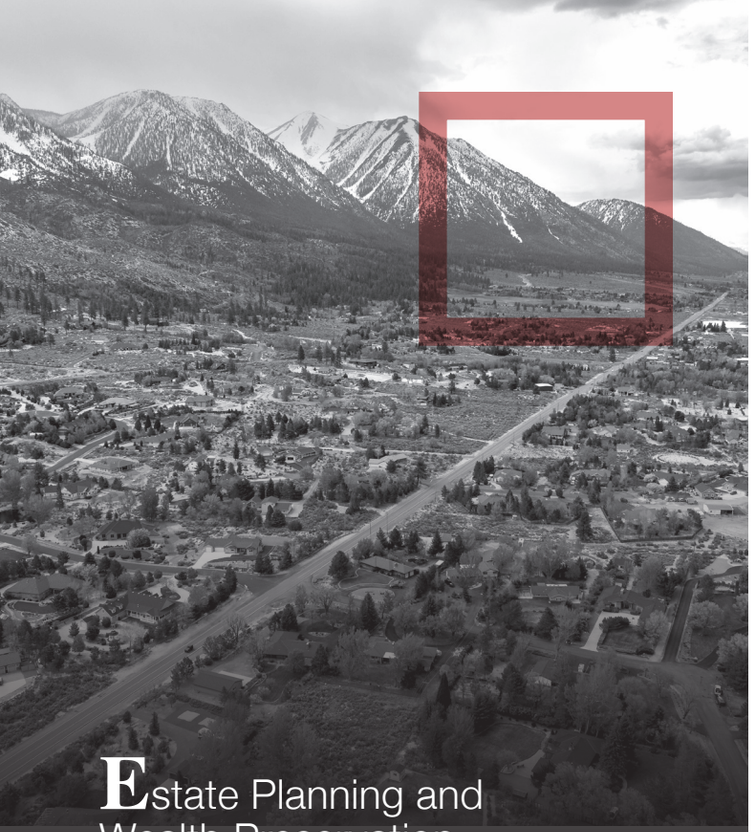
A FULL-SERVICE, AV-RATED LAW FIRM



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Estate Planning

LAS VEGAS RENO



Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation

From beginning to end, effective estate planning can reduce court costs and administrative expenses, and, depending on the strategies employed, may offer opportunities to manage estate tax liability, defer or reduce capital gains exposure, and optimize the overall tax efficiency of wealth transfers. The most beneficial result of estate planning, however, is often peace of mind for the client.

The central estate planning concern for many people is ensuring that their wealth, heirlooms, and business interests, accumulated over a lifetime, are transferred to the people and in the manner and time frame they wish. An experienced estate planning attorney can develop a custom estate plan that satisfi es these objectives. In estate planning, one size does not fit all.

Trusts and Wills



To avoid the complicated and sometimes lengthy process of probate, many people create living trusts in connection with their wills. To avoid the complicated and sometimes lengthy process of probate, many people create living trusts in addition to wills. A will, although traditionally accepted as the standard document for distribution of assets, is not without disadvantages. A revocable living trust can significantly reduce, or in some cases completely eliminate, the costs associated with probate administration. With additional planning, such as the use of irrevocable trusts or other advanced estate planning techniques, it may also be possible to reduce or minimize federal estate tax exposure. A well-structured estate plan has the added benefit of preserving more of the estate's value for the intended beneficiaries by avoiding unnecessary administrative costs and, where appropriate, leveraging available tax-saving strategies.

Probate

Probate is a court proceeding that governs the transfer of a decedent's probate assets including those held solely in the decedent's name without a beneficiary designation, joint ownership, or other transfer-on-death arrangement to the intended beneficiaries as directed by the decedent's will. Probate also occurs when a decedent has not left a will or other estate planning document, in which case assets are distributed according to Nevada's laws of intestate succession. Although probate offers protection from theft or misuse of a decedent's assets, it can be a difficult, costly and lengthy procedure, which can tax the patience and financial resources of a decedent's beneficiaries. Assets held in a properly funded living trust, jointly titled accounts, and accounts with valid beneficiary designations typically pass outside of the probate process.

Asset Protection

Asset protection strategies protect assets from lawsuits and collection activities of potential creditors. When properly established, asset protection devices deter creditors seeking to collect a judgement because assets that might be used to satisfy the judgement are otherwise unreachable or difficult to seize. Asset protection devices include the creation of Spendthrift Trusts, Offshore Asset Protection Trusts, Separate Property Trusts, Family Limited Partnerships, and the gifting of property.

Trust and Probate Litigation

Hutchison & Steffen represents trustees, banks, investment professionals, and private individuals who are involved in disputes concerning estates and trusts. The Firm's practice includes will contests, disputes over the distribution of trust assets, interpretation of testamentary instruments, the allocation of federal estate tax burden, and the modifi cation of trusts. When appropriate, the Firm works closely with other trust and estate professionals to maximize the client's opportunities for a successful resolution of these disputes.