Kirsten L. Ambach

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ATTORNEY PROFILE

Kirsten L. Ambach is a shareholder in Karr Tuttle Campbell's Tax, Trusts & Estates Department and focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning and trust and estate administration. Ms. Ambach counsels clients on all facets of a sophisticated estate plan, including tax strategies, complex trusts, asset protection, intrafamily gifts and other wealth transfers, and vacation property preservation. Ms. Ambach guides individual and professional fiduciaries through the estate and trust administration process.

Ms. Ambach received her law degree from the University of Washington School of Law, where she graduated with Highest Honors. She is active in the Washington State and King County Bar Associations, and she is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Seattle. Ms. Ambach is also currently the Editor of the Washington State Bar Association's Real Property, Probate & Trust Section Newsletter. She was named a "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* from 2008-2012 and a "Super Lawyer" 2015-2018, and she is regularly recognized as a "Five Star Professional" by *Seattle Magazine*.

EDUCATION

University of Washington
- Bachelor of Arts, English, *summa cum laude*
- Bachelor of Arts, History, *summa cum laude*
- Honors: 1997 Dean's Medal of Honor for the Outstanding Graduating Student in Humanities

Columbia University
- Master of Arts, Social Studies, Education
- Honors: E. Colford Morris Award

University of Washington School of Law
- Juris Doctor with Highest Honors
- Honors: Order of the Coif
- 2003 Delta Theta Phi Award
- *Washington Law Review*, Articles Editor

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

Washington State Bar

MAJOR AREAS OF PRACTICE

Estate and Tax Planning, Probate and Trust Settlement

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
Washington State Bar Association, Real Property, Probate & Trust Section
- Executive Committee *ex officio* member, 2017-2019
- Newsletter Editor, 2018-2019
- Assistant Newsletter Editor, 2017-2018
- Newsletter Editorial Board Member, 2008-2017

Washington State Bar Association, Taxation Section
- Estate and Gift Tax Committee Member, 2014-present

King County Bar Association
Estate Planning Council of Seattle

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

King County Bar Association, Newcomers Resource Project, Estate Planning Volunteer (2005-2017)
King County Bar Association, Volunteer Legal Services, Estate Planning Volunteer (2011-Present)
Seattle Children's Hospital Foundation, Children's Legacy Advisor (2014-Present)

PUBLICATIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

"QTIP Election of a Washington Exemption Trust," Washington State Bar Association, Annual Fall Probate and Trust Seminar, December 2018
"Nuts and Bolts of Probate," Skagit County Bar Association Probate CLE, November 2017
"Mechanics behind the 1% Washington QTIP Election," Washington State Bar Association, Real Property, Probate & Trust Section Newsletter, Summer 2017
"Real Estate Family LLCs," Washington State Bar Association, Real Property, Probate & Trust Section Midyear Conference, June 2017. Co-presenter with Sean Griffee
"Portability, Estate, Gift, GST Taxes, and Basis," Estate Administration Boot Camp, National Business Institute CLE, August 2016
"Tax Planning and Reporting," Advanced Estate and Trust Administration, National Business Institute CLE, March 2016
"Inventory and Appraisement," The Probate Process from Start to Finish, National Business Institute CLE, May 2015

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"RLT Trust Structures" and "Spendthrift Discretionary Trusts," Revocable Living Trusts from Start to to Finish, National Business Institute CLE, August 2014

"Recent Developments in Estate, Trust, and Probate Case Law," Washington State Bar Association, Real Property, Probate & Trust Section Newsletter, Oct. 2008-Sept. 2011

Estate Planning for the Small to Medium Sized Estate, Washington State Bar Association CLE, Co-Chair and Presenter of "Estate Planning for the Nontraditional Family," April 2010

Estate Planning for the Small to Medium Sized Estate, Washington State Bar Association CLE, Co-Chair, April 2009

Probate Boot Camp, Washington State Bar Association CLE, Chair, July 2008

"Marital Tax Planning," Basic Washington Estate Planning Skills: Series 7, University of Washington School of Law, Conferences and Continuing Education, November 2006

"The Drafting of Testamentary Trusts," Washington Estate Planning Deskbook (Washington State Bar Association, 2005)

"Tax and Financial Planning Issues of Domestic Partnerships," 2005 Federal Tax Workshops, Inc., CLE for Washington Society of CPAs, September 2005

"Living Wills and Other End of Life Instruments," Washington State Bar Association CLE, April 2005

"Miranda's Poisoned Fruit Tree: The Admissibility of Physical Evidence Derived from an Unwarned Statement," 78 *Washington Law Review* 757, 2003