



trusts & estates

estate planning

Our attorneys have expertise in all aspects of creative estate planning, as well as the details of post-death planning and administration with special emphasis on:

- Customized gift and estate planning for high-net-worth individuals
- Representation of fiduciaries and beneficiaries in disputed estate and trust administration matters

In our estate planning practice, we prepare all documents including:

- Wills, living trusts, powers of attorney and irrevocable trusts
- Family limited partnerships and other vehicles to transfer wealth efficiently

In doing so, we pride ourselves on tailoring our estate planning services so that each client's estate plan is customized to fit that client's wealth, asset mix, family situation and planning goals.

For our clients with larger estates, we have developed planning approaches for specific assets including:

- Retirement plans
- Art collections
- Copyrights

We also assist with the preparation of gift tax returns to report the tax consequences of the lifetime gift planning we structure.

trust and estate administration

Our practice group also counsels executors, administrators, trustees, guardians and conservators in matters of estate, trust, guardianship and conservatorship administration. These matters require the necessary attention to detail throughout the administration process, ranging from identification and valuation of assets, transferring title to those assets, and making distributions to beneficiaries of estates and trusts. Since one of the principal duties of a fiduciary

practice contacts

Allan B. Cutrow

Jeffrey K. Eisen

attorneys

Jeffrey D. Davine

Karl de Costa

Justin P. Farrell

Seth W. Krasilovsky

Natalia Momtsios

David Wheeler Newman

Autumn Ronda

related practices areas

nonprofit organizations

tax planning



during post-mortem administration is compliance, we also prepare, or assist in the preparation of, estate tax returns. We also counsel the fiduciary through the estate tax (or gift tax) audit process.

trust and estate litigation

Our team of experienced trusts and estates litigation attorneys represent individuals, banks and trust companies, private professional fiduciaries, charitable organizations and educational institutions in a broad range of trust, estate, conservatorship and guardianship disputes and proceedings in probate courts throughout California.

Combining extensive knowledge of the underlying substantive law and an acute understanding of the procedural nuances involved, our attorneys have successfully represented clients in a diverse range of disputes or contested actions, including probate proceedings, fiduciary accounting proceedings, proceedings for the discovery and turnover of estate or trust assets, as well as matters involving alleged breaches of fiduciary duties and responsibilities, reformation of testamentary instruments, investment performance, and contests of wills and trusts involving allegations of undue influence, fraud, duress, lack of due execution, lack of capacity, and coercion.

Our attorneys approach all disputed trust, estate, conservatorship and guardianship matters cognizant of the complex income, estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax ramifications and consequences, as well as the sensitive issues that arise and the emotional, psychological and interpersonal tolls that often result from such disputes. Where appropriate, we leverage our track record of success in the courtroom in furtherance of efforts to achieve favorable settlements of disputes outside of the courtroom. In addition, our seasoned trial lawyers counsel fiduciaries on ways to avoid litigation and advise our clients on litigation prevention techniques.

headlines

12 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2026 Edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*
Super Lawyers , February 20, 2026

Jeffrey Eisen Represents Muhammad Ali Estate in U.S. Forever Stamp Recognition
January 15, 2026

MSK's 2026 Partner Promotions Featured in *Los Angeles Business Journal*
Los Angeles Business Journal , December 22, 2025

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Names New Partners
December 15, 2025

37 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2026
Best Lawyers, August 21, 2025

Jeffrey Eisen Named to *The Hollywood Reporter's* 2024 "Power Lawyers: Troubleshooters" List
The Hollywood Reporter, October 23, 2024



34 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2025
August 15, 2024

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Announces New Leadership
Business Wire , December 11, 2023

38 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2024
August 17, 2023

26 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2022
August 19, 2021

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp in 2021 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 2020

33 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2021
August 20, 2020

27 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2020
August 15, 2019

MSK Welcomes Partner Autumn Ronda
March 6, 2019

The Best Lawyers in America© 2019 Recognizes 24 Attorneys from MSK
August 15, 2018

S. Eva Wolf Named to *Profiles in Diversity Journal's* 2018 "Women Worth Watching" List
June 7, 2018

MSK Elects S. Eva Wolf and Janice Luo to Partnership
December 21, 2017

Jeff Eisen Named Among *The Hollywood Reporter's* Power Lawyers
December 4, 2017

MSK Named Among 2018 Best Law Firms
November 1, 2017

The Best Lawyers in America© 2018 Recognizes 24 Attorneys from Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
August 15, 2017

David Wheeler Newman Presented with Distinguished Service Award from LA Council of Charitable Gift Planners
June 1, 2017



MSK Named Among 2017 Best Law Firms

November 1, 2016

The Best Lawyers in America© 2017 Recognizes 22 Attorneys from Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp

August 22, 2016

Stephen A. Bauman Named Of Counsel

January 28, 2016

MSK Launches Its New Trusts & Estates Blog

May 27, 2014

David Newman Represents UCLA Foundation in Fielding's \$50 Million Donation

February 18, 2012

news

Jeffrey Eisen Featured in *Mondaq*

Mondaq, July 29, 2025

Jeff Eisen appears on the *Today Show*

January 31, 2023

Jeff Eisen Named a "Power Lawyer: Troubleshooter" by The Hollywood Reporter

The Hollywood Reporter, November 21, 2022

Autumn Ronda Featured in *Law360* for Move to MSK

March 7, 2019

Autumn Ronda Featured in *Law360* for Move to MSK

March 7, 2019

Jeff Eisen Quoted in *Bloomberg BNA*

February 27, 2019

Jeff Eisen Quoted in *Bloomberg BNA*

August 25, 2018

S. Eva Wolf and Janice Luo Featured in *Law360*

August 9, 2018

Jeff Eisen Quoted in *The Hollywood Reporter* on New Tax Law

December 27, 2017



S. Eva Wolf and Jacey Hayes Featured in *Los Angeles Business Journal*
November 6, 2017

Jeff Eisen Quoted in *Law360*
November 3, 2017

Jeffrey Eisen Featured in *Law360*
October 6, 2017

Bloomberg BNA's Daily Report for Executives Quotes Eva Wolf on IRS Case Regarding Estate Tax Rules
Bloomberg BNA, May 26, 2017

Jeffrey Eisen Quoted in *BloombergBNA's Patent Trademark & Copyright Journal*
March 3, 2017

Jeffrey Eisen Quoted in *BloombergBNA*
BloombergBNA, February 28, 2017

David Wheeler Newman Mentioned in *L.A. Biz*
L.A. Biz, June 28, 2016

David Newman Quoted in *Law360*
December 24, 2015

MSK Selected for Inclusion in 2016 US News Best Law Firms
November 2015

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp in 2015 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 3, 2014

The Best Lawyers in America© 2015 Recognizes 21 Attorneys from Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp and Names 2 Attorneys "Lawyer of the Year"
August 2014

Allan Cutrow Quoted in *Los Angeles Daily Journal*
August 2014

The Legal 500 United States 2014 Edition
June 2014

26 MSK Attorneys Named to 2014 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 2014

Allan Cutrow Mentioned on *Main Street*
December 30, 2013



U.S. News & World Report Recognizes MSK in 2013-2014 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 2013

Four MSK Attorneys Named to Southern California's *Super Lawyers'* Rising Stars List
June 2013

26 MSK Attorneys Named to 2013 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 2013

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes MSK in 2012-2013 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 1, 2012

21 MSK Attorneys Selected for *Best Lawyers in America 2013*
August 24, 2012

MSK Ranked Among Leading Tax Law Firms in *Tax Directors Handbook 2012*
January 26, 2012

25 Named to 2012 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 23, 2012

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes MSK In 2011-2012 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 1, 2011

MSK Attorneys Recognized Among "The Best Lawyers in America" for 2012
August 31, 2011

Nine MSK Attorneys Named to Southern California *Super Lawyers'* Rising Stars List
June 13, 2011

Chambers USA Recognizes MSK Attorneys Among America's Leading Lawyers
June 10, 2011

The 2011 Legal 500 USA Guide Recognizes MSK Attorneys and Intellectual Property and Tax Practice Groups
Among the Nation's Best
June 9, 2011

Cutrow Counsels *Time's* Stein on Estate Planning
February 28, 2011

24 Named to 2011 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 25, 2011

Jeffrey Davine Selected for Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) for 2011-2013
November 23, 2010



MSK Recognized in *U.S. News & World Report/Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms" Rankings
September 15, 2010

The 2011 Best Lawyers in America Recognized MSK Attorneys from Nine Practice Areas
August 19, 2010

28 Named to 2010 Southern California Super Lawyers List
January 26, 2010

Allan Cutrow Quoted in *The Business Press*
January 12, 2010

The Best Lawyers in America 2010
August 3, 2009

Allan Cutrow Outlines Gifting Strategies in the *Wall Street Journal*
April 8, 2009

29 Chosen to 2009 Southern California Super Lawyers List
January 30, 2009

33 Chosen to 2008 Super Lawyers Lists
November 21, 2008

The Best Lawyers in America 2009
September 17, 2008

The Legal 500 Ranks MSK Among "Top Firms" and Partners Among "Leading Lawyers"
June 17, 2008

MSK Home to 23 Southern California Super Lawyers for 2008
January 30, 2008

The Best Lawyers in America 2007
December 28, 2007

The Best Lawyers in America in Trusts and Estates in 2007
March 29, 2007

publications

4 Lessons From The Robin Williams Estate Litigation
Law360, May 26, 2015



alerts

Estate and Gift Tax Impact of the "One Big Beautiful Bill"

MSK Client Alert, July 9, 2025

Proposition 19 Set to End Major Property Tax Exemption

MSK Client Alert, November 10, 2020

Is this the Golden Age of CLATs?

MSK Client Alert, May 1, 2020

California Estate Tax: Gone Today, Here Tomorrow?

MSK Client Alert, April 4, 2019

Delinquent Taxpayers May Need to Rethink Travel Plans

MSK Client Alert, November 19, 2018

How Does the Suspension of Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions Impact Your Trust or Estate?

January 25, 2018

Year-End Tax Planning for College Football Fans

MSK Client Alert, December 11, 2017

Top Six Reasons NOT to Have an Estate Plan

July 17, 2017

IRS Gives Surviving Spouses a Second (or Third) Bite at the Portability Apple

MSK Client Alert, July 10, 2017

Can Charitable Remainder Trusts Avoid the Self-Dealing Rules?

MSK Client Alert, May 15, 2017

Estate Planning - When the Only Certainty is Unpredictability

MSK Client Alert, January 20, 2017

Understanding UPMIFA: Important Endowment Concepts

MSK Client Alert, January 3, 2017

Proposed IRS Regulations Could End Most Valuation Discounts for Family Entities

September 27, 2016

Important New Guidance on Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts

MSK Client Alert, September 8, 2016

4 Things Beneficiaries Who Receive IRS Form 8971's Schedule A Must Know

MSK Client Alert, July 26, 2016



Four Lessons Learned From Prince's Estate (So Far)

MSK Client Alert, May 2, 2016

Higher Learning: A Potentially Expensive Lesson About 529 Plans

MSK Client Alert, May 2, 2016

California Supreme Court to Review Controversial Documentary Transfer Tax Case

January 30, 2015

National Estate Planning Awareness Week

October 20, 2014

Equal Tax Treatment for Same-Sex Couples in the Wake of Recent Supreme Court Ruling and IRS Guidance

MSK Client Alert, January 2014

Selection of Trustees - Important Questions; Difficult Answers

MSK Client Alert, September 12, 2012

2012 Gift Tax Planning - A Golden Opportunity

MSK Client Alert, April 17, 2012

"How Will the IRS Find Out?" Here's How

MSK Client Alert, January 19, 2012

California Enforces New Isolationist View on Property Tax Exemptions for Nonprofits

MSK Client Alert, August 4, 2011

IRS Backs Off of Gift Tax on 501(c)(4) Contributions

MSK Client Alert, July 7, 2011

Potential Gift Tax Liability for Contributions to 501(c)(4)s - UPDATE #2

MSK Client Alert, May 10, 2011

Reminder: New Tax Act Includes Gift Tax Opportunities

MSK Client Alert, February 14, 2011

Potential Gift Tax Liability for Contributions to 501(c)(4)s - UPDATE

MSK Client Alert, January 27, 2011

Trusts & Estates Alert

MSK Client Alert, December 21, 2010

Significant Tax Law Changes Under the New Tax Act

MSK Client Alert, December 20, 2010



Potential Gift Tax Liability for Election Year Contributions to 501(c)(4) Social Welfare (Political?) Organizations
MSK Client Alert, October 14, 2010

2010: The Year Of The Taxable Gift
MSK Client Alert, September 29, 2010

Tax Provisions of The HIRE Act: Business Incentives and Offshore Compliance
MSK Client Alert, March 23, 2010

Estate Tax "Repeal"
MSK Client Alert, February 2010

Estate Tax Consequences of Pre-1970 Charitable Remainder Trusts
Vol. III, No. 4

events & speaking engagements

Required Minimum Distributions After the SECURE Act and SECURE Act 2.0
April 22, 2025

Estate Planning for Family Offices: A State of Flux
November 4, 2024

Pet Trusts and Estate Planning for Animals
October 23, 2024

Advance Planning as a Tool to Prevent Financial Elder Abuse
June 26, 2024

Leave 'Em A Dollar, That Should Keep Them in Line: Effective Planning to Avoid Contests
November 7, 2018

Gifts of Copyrights, Trademarks and other Intellectual Property
October 18, 2018

Preparing Gift and Estate Tax Returns and the Audit Process
April 13, 2018

Estate and Gift Tax Return Preparation and Audit Tips
February 20, 2018

Taxation and Representation: Career Paths in Tax Law
February 6, 2018



Getting Clear on Going Grey: Identifying and Addressing Diminished Capacity
February 1, 2017

Estate Planning: Looking at Our World Through Income Tax Glasses
December 20, 2016

Estate Planning: Looking at Our World Through Income Tax Glasses
October 19, 2016

Dealing with the Self-Dealing Rules
October 18, 2016

12th Annual Jerry A. Kasner Estate Planning Symposium
September 30, 2016

Did I Really Miss That? Top 10 Common Mistakes Tax Practitioners Make in Trust and Estate Planning and Administration and Can They Be Fixed?
September 27, 2016

Real Estate Gift Opportunities: Overcoming Obstacles
June 3, 2016

Conference on Charitable Giving 2016
May 12, 2016

Estate and Gift Tax Returns: Common Mistakes and How to Fix Them
February 11, 2016

Did I Really Miss That? Top 10 Common Mistakes Tax Practitioners Make in Trust and Estate Planning
January 27, 2016

A Former IRS Attorney's Perspective on Common Mistakes in Estate and Gift Tax Returns
January 14, 2016

To Fee, Or Not To Fee: Entitlement Is The Question
May 21, 2015

Important Trustee Obligations to Invest Prudently
June 15, 2010