Desta K. Asfaw

Associate

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Desta Asfaw develops estate planning and wealth management solutions for high net worth individuals and families.

Desta's practice is focused on meeting her clients personal, financial, and tax planning needs. She represents individuals and families, estates and trusts, family offices, closely-held businesses, foundations, and individual and corporate fiduciaries.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Desta worked as an extern for the Denver District Attorney's office, and she served as an extern for the Honorable Judge Craig B. Shaffer.

PRACTICES

Estate Planning, Trust Administration, and Wealth Transfer
Private Client
Tax and Benefits

EDUCATION

University of Colorado School of Law, J.D., 2011
Journal on Telecommunications and High Technology Law, Student Note Editor
Black Law Students Association, Vice President

University of Colorado, Leeds School of Business, 2007
Diverse Scholar, 2003-2007

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

EXPERIENCE

Wealth Transfer Planning and Estate Planning

Desta develops estate planning solutions for her clients, including:

- Gift, estate, and generation-skipping transfer tax planning
- Irrevocable trusts, including intentionally defective irrevocable trusts (IDITs), grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), qualified personal residence trusts (QPRTs), and irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs)
- Values-based trusts
- Marital property planning
- Wills and revocable trusts
- Powers of attorney and living wills
- Asset titling and customized beneficiary designations
- Planning for minors
- Business succession planning
- Estate and trust administration
- Limited liability companies and family partnerships

Wealth Management

Desta assists clients with their wealth management planning, including:

- Legal and tax services
- Legal aspects of investment services
- Full integration of wealth transfer plans with other advisors

- Information flow across multiple family entities

PUBLICATIONS

"Personal and Family Lending: New Federal and Colorado Regulations," *Holland & Hart Fiduciary Law Blog*, April 2016

"Letters of Wishes: Helpful or Hurtful?," *Holland & Hart Fiduciary Law Blog, Co-Author*, February 2014

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Gifting Part II, an ABA eLearning program," *American Bar Association Real Property, Trust and Estate Law*, March 2016

"Ethics 101 For the Estate Planner," *American Bar Association, Estate & Gift Taxes and Fiduciary Income Tax Young Lawyers Subcommittee*, September 2014

"Don't You Forget About Me: Planning Options Afforded by Section 2503," *American Bar Association, Estate & Gift Taxes and Fiduciary Income Tax Young Lawyers Subcommittee*, September 2013

RECOGNITION

- Colorado Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Estate & Probate, 2017-2019

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, Member
- Colorado Bar Association, Member
- Sam Cary Bar Association, Member
- Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Council, Member
- The Denver Foundation Professional Advisors Council
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver, Board of Directors, Development Committee Member
- Holland & Hart Recruiting Committee, Member
- Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom, Attorney Volunteer, 2013-2017
- McDonald’s “Arches of Hope,” Committee Coordinator, 2006-present