PRACTICES

Trust and Estate Planning and Administration
Private Client
Family Office and Trust Companies

EDUCATION

University of Colorado Law School, 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

Desta Asfaw

Partner

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Desta Asfaw develops sophisticated estate, wealth transfer, and wealth preservation planning solutions for high net worth individuals, families, and closely-held businesses.

Desta specializes in complex asset structures involving a variety of wealth transfer, charitable, and business succession planning strategies. She enjoys providing her clients with strategic tax planning advice while also addressing personal goals and promoting family harmony through multiple generations.

Desta typically represents business owners, executives, other high net worth individuals, trusts, closely-held businesses, foundations, and corporate fiduciaries.

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*, 04/27/2016

"Letters of Wishes: Helpful or Hurtful?," *Holland & Hart Fiduciary Law Blog, Co-Author*, 02/16/2014

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"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*, 09/20/2013

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Trusts and Estates, 2024, 2025; Tax Law, 2025
- *Chambers High Net Worth (HNW) Guide:* Private Wealth Law - Colorado, 2021-2024
- Colorado Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Estate & Probate, 2017-2021
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*™, Trusts and Estates, 2021-2023
- *5280 Magazine* Top Lawyers, Estate Planning, 2021-2024

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
- Holland & Hart Recruiting Committee, Member
- University of Colorado Law School, Law Alumni Board
- The Denver Foundation Black Resilience in Colorado Fund Advisory Committee, Member
- Denver Zoo, Board of Governors