Samuel J. Goncz
Shareholder

Shareholder

Pittsburgh
D +1 412 297 4810

samuel.goncz@dentons.com

Overview

Sam Goncz is the national practice leader of the Trusts Estates and Wealth Preservation group and chairs the Private Wealth Client Service Sector, which includes Pittsburgh and Florida Estates and Trusts, and Nonprofit Organizations.

For over 25 years, Sam has advised individuals, families and family offices in estate planning matters, with a special focus on business succession, federal estate tax planning, and the use of trusts. He takes a practical, creative, results-oriented approach that emphasizes clear communication and listening to his clients. “One of the chief complaints that people have about their lawyers is that they can’t understand them,” says Sam. “The estates and trusts world is a minefield of jargon. The greatest compliment is when a new client says ‘Thank you, Sam. I never understood that before.’”

Sam brings this same approach to the representation of executors and trustees in the administration of estates and trusts, including the careful management of complex tax situations and the modification of irrevocable trusts to meet changing circumstances.

Experience

Sam's clients include owners of closely held businesses, executives, and those of multigenerational wealth. He has successfully represented private clients before the Internal Revenue Service, state taxing authorities, and the U.S. Tax Court concerning wealth transfer tax matters.

Recognition

Honors and Awards

- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent

Insights

- Sam has been published in Tax Management's *Estates, Gifts and Trusts Journal* and *The Monthly Digest of Tax Articles*, as well as other professional publications, and he has authored chapters in Tax Management's *Tax Practice Series* on "Small Business Stock" and "Start-up Expenditures."

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

- Sam lectures for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's continuing legal education program and regularly speaks to client and professional groups regarding attorney ethics, estate planning, business succession planning, estate and trust administration, federal estate, gift and generation-skipping taxation, and related topics.

Memberships

Sam is a member of the Probate and Trust Legislation Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. He is also a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and a past member of its Probate and Trust Law Section Council.

Sam serves on the Planned Giving Advisory Committees of the Pittsburgh Foundation and Grove City College. He is active in his church and is a former Board member and officer of Lutherlyn, a 501(c)(3) charity, and its related charities. Sam and his wife, Heather, have three daughters and live in Cranberry Township.

Areas of focus

Practices

- Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation

Education

- Washington and Lee University School of Law, 1992, JD, *magna cum laude*
- Grove City College, 1989, BA, *summa cum laude*

Admissions and qualifications

- Pennsylvania
- US District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- US Tax Court