



Bennett Keller

COUNSEL IN CLAYTON, MO

Bennett (Ben) joined Sandberg Phoenix in 2023 and is a member of the Business practice group. Ben concentrates his practice in estate planning, probate and general business, corporate law and succession planning. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Washington University School of Law in the Master's of Taxation Program where he teaches a class in Business Succession Planning.

Ben is a frequent lecturer and speaker on estate planning, business succession planning and tax issues. He has authored articles for such publications as the *Journal of Taxation*, *Estate Planning* and the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

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SERVICES

Corporate Transactions

General Business Law

Wealth Planning & Individual
Services

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Handled tax court controversy - preferred stock recapitalization and family estate freezes;

Worked with many family businesses nationwide regarding business succession and generational planning;

Handled numerous shareholder disputes.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association, Real Property, Probate and Trust and Taxation Sections

Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, Probate and Trust Law Steering Committee, Past Chairman

Colorado Bar Association

Estate Planning Council of St. Louis

Illinois State Bar Association

Missouri Bar Association

Missouri Bar Association, Advisory Committee of the Supreme Court of Missouri,
Former Panel Member

Missouri Bar Association, Former Durable Power of Attorney Subcommittee
Member

Missouri Region X Disciplinary Committee, Former Chair

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law

B.S.B.A., University of Missouri-Columbia, *cum laude*

LICENSURE(S) AND ADMISSION(S)

Colorado

Illinois

Missouri

United States Tax Court

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Jonny G Foundation, Founder and Board Member

The Kaufman Fund, Volunteer

Alzheimer Association, Former Board Member

AMC Cancer Research, Former Board Member

Make-A-Wish Foundation, Former Board Member

Missouri Tourism Commission, Board Member, Appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon, 2014 -
2017

The Lupus Foundation, Former Board Member

PRESENTATIONS

"Protecting the Next Generation: Succession and Estate Planning for Small/Family-
owned Businesses," Missouri Lawyers Media (September 15, 2020)

Panelist, "Turning Liquidity into Purpose: Developing your plan for the liquidity event and the next chapter of your life," Smart Business Dealmakers Conference (February 13, 2020)

"Lending to the Family-Owned Business," Risk Management Association Monthly Meeting (June 2017)

"Obeying the Cardinal Rules: A Practical Guide to Common Ethical Issues," Transportation Law Institute, St. Louis (November 2014)

2012 Annual Update and Open House, St. Louis, MO (November 2012)

"Right to Die After Cruzan," The Missouri Bar Fall Probate Institute (1990)

"The Probate Tool Box - Federal and Missouri Estate and Income Taxes," Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (1988)

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, "Sales, Mortgages, Leases and Exchanges," *Chapter 6 of The Missouri Bar CLE Handbook, Estate Administration*

Co-Author, "S Corporations in Missouri," *Professional Education Systems, Inc.*

Co-Author, "Planning for the Allocation of Administration Expenses to Income Under Hubert," *Journal of Taxation, Vol. 84, No. 4, (April 1996)*

Co-Author, "Hard to Handle Assets in Probate," *The St. Louis Bar Journal, Vol. 1 (Winter 1992)*

Co-Author, "IRS Makes It Harder to Use GRITS, But Provides a Safe Harbor to Avoid Gift and Estate Taxes," *Estate Planning, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1990)*

Co-Author, "Valuation of Closely Held Business Interests, Current Application of Minority Discount and the Control Premium," *The Journal of Taxation of Estates and Trusts, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Spring 1990)*

Co-Author, "Treatment of Estate Freezes Revised by TAMRA, But Many Questions Remain," *Estate Planning, Vol. 16, No. 2 (March/April 1989)*

Co-Author, "Deferral Can Still be Combined with Corporate Redemptions to Provide Liquidity, Tax Benefits," *Estate Planning, Vol. 14, No. 5 (1987)*

RECOGNITION

MARTINDALE-HUBBELL®

AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating

2008-2024

BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH IN AMERICA

Best Lawyer

2005-2006, 2008-2019, 2021-2023

MISSOURI & KANSAS SUPER LAWYERS

Super Lawyer

2014, 2021

ST. LOUIS SMALL BUSINESS MONTHLY

100 St. Louisans You Should Know to Succeed in Business

2020

MISSOURI LAWYERS WEEKLY

Missouri ICON Award

MISSOURI LAW REVIEW

Note and Comment Editor

OUTSTANDING YOUNG WEST COUNTIAN

BETA ALPHA PSI

DELTA THETA PHI