

**KANSAS CITY**

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Assistant
Melissa Whitesel
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PRACTICE AREAS

Wealth Strategies
Trust and Estate Litigation

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Kansas
City School of Law, J.D., *with
distinction*, 1992

Missouri Western State
University, B.S., Political
Science, 1983

Gretchen M. Gold

Partner | ggold@lathropgage.com

Ms. Gold's area of practice is in estate and trust taxation, estate planning, probate and trust administration, probate and trust litigation, adult and minor guardianships, charitable and not-for-profit planning, business succession, and wealth preservation planning. Ms. Gold managed the Wealth Strategies department from 2008-2011.

Ms. Gold provides lifetime financial planning involving special needs of children, spouses, and financial planning related to divorce. Gretchen assists clients in the preparation of estate planning documents, from Wills and Trusts containing complicated tax and distribution provisions, to Family Limited Partnerships, Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts, Irrevocable Gift Trusts, Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts, Qualified Personal Residence Trusts, Charitable Lead and Remainder Trusts, and many other sophisticated estate planning devices.

Ms. Gold also counsels non-profit organizations on matters relating to formation, obtaining tax exempt status, tax issues and controversies, distribution and reporting requirements and termination. Gretchen also assists organizations in establishing endowed and restricted gifts and handling planned gifts.

Ms. Gold handles a variety of probate, trust and fiduciary litigation matters for both beneficiaries and fiduciaries. These matters include contested guardianships, creditor's claims in estates and trusts, trust terminations, will and trust contests and breaches of fiduciary duty by personal representatives, trustees, guardians and agents under powers of attorney, to name a few. Ms. Gold believes that with thorough planning on the front end, much of the probate and trust litigation can be avoided. Ms. Gold uses a practical approach to resolution of

disputes in an effort to avoid the expense of litigation whenever possible.

Court Memberships

- Kansas
- Missouri
- Oklahoma

Honors

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2012-2019
- Order of the Bench and Robe
- Law Review (Note & Comment Editor)
- American Jurisprudence Award - Property I and Civil Procedure I
- The Law Council

Professional Affiliations

- Harvest Ball Society, Member (2013-present), Board of Directors (2015-2017), Treasurer (2015-2016)
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City, Planned Giving Council Member (2010-present), Chair (2013-present) and Board of Directors(2013-2016)
- Association of Women Lawyers, Member, 2011-2013
- The Missouri Bar, Member, 1992-present; Vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Legal Assistants, 1995-1998;
- Probate and Trust Law Committee of the Missouri Bar; Spousal Elective Chair Subcommittee, Member, 2004; Missouri Uniform Trust Code Committee, Member, 2003-2005; Digital Asset Subcommittee, Member, 2012-2013; Power of Appointment Subcommittee, Member, 2012-present; Fiduciary Litigation Subcommittee, Member, 2012-present; Probate Committee, 2015-present
- The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Member, 1992-present; Probate Trust Committee, 1995-present; Public Service Committee, 1993
- Truman Medical Center TRUFRIENDS, Member, 2011-2012
- Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation, Legal Counsel to the Board, 2004-present; Kansas City's Medicine Cabinet - The Kansas City Tip-Off, Honorary Co-Chair, 2013

- Embassy Park Home Owners Association, Board Member, 2004-2012, President, 2005-2012
- Children's Mercy Hospital, Planned Gift Council, 1998-present
- The Kansas City Estate Planning Society, Board Member, 2004-2006; Member, 1992-present
- The Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium (Formerly the Federal Estate Planning Society Symposium), Planning Committee, 2005-2009
- Tommy Simone Memorial Scholarship Fund, Committee Member, 1997-2005

- Saint Pius X High School (School Board Member, 1996-2002; School Board President, 1999-2001)
- Saint Pius X High School (Capital Campaign Committee, 1997-2002)

Presentations

- *Fiduciary Litigation*, Annual Estate and Trust Institute (MoBar CLE)
- *Fiduciary Litigation*, Estate Planning Fundamentals (UMKC/KCEPS CLE)
- *Fundamentals of Trust Administration*, National Business Institute
- *Distribution of Assets Closing Trust and Estate Administration*, The Missouri Bar Annual Estate & Trust Institute
- *Use of Life Insurance to Solve Tax Problems - Buy-Sell Agreements*, University of Missouri-Kansas City Continuing Legal Education
- *Independent Administration*, University of Missouri-Kansas City Continuing Legal Education
- *Terminating Irrevocable Trusts*, The Missouri Bar Annual Probate Institute
- *Independent Administration*, The Missouri Bar Annual Probate Institute
- *Probate*, The Missouri Bar Annual Law Update
- *Probate and Estate Administration*, University of Missouri, Kansas City Continuing Legal Education
- *2010 Tax Update* - Missouri Association of Tax Practitioners
- *Estate and Trust Update* - Missouri Society of Certified Professional Accountants