



Vern Adkins

Counsel

Redwood Shores

D 650.804.7661

vern.adkins@lathropgpm.com

Vern Adkins works with high net worth individuals and families on their wealth transfer planning, including everything from basic estate planning with a revocable trust, to advanced tax planning techniques including grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), sales to intentionally defective grantor trusts (IDGTs) and multi-generational trusts which are exempt from the generation skipping transfer (GST) tax. Vern begins the process by gaining an understanding of his client's overall wealth transfer philosophy and tolerance for risk and complexity. He then crafts solutions uniquely tailored to each family's situation.

The best laid wealth transfer plans can fall apart without proper administration. Therefore, Vern's practice extends to administration of trusts and estates after a death. Prior to joining Lathrop GPM, Vern gained hands-on experience administering trusts as a trust officer for a boutique private bank. He takes a practical yet thorough approach to advising his trustee clients and settling estates. Vern handles preparation of both gift tax (Form 709) and estate tax (Form 706) returns, as well as IRS audit defense for both.

Areas of Focus

Services

[Private Client Services](#)

Experience

- Defended an IRS audit of an estate tax return (Form 706) for a complex \$250 million estate. Not only did the audit result in no additional tax, our client received a refund from the IRS.
- Established grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs) for client who was the founder of a pre-IPO startup company. Through the GRATs, and after the IPO, the stock transferred to the client's children's trusts exceeded \$50 million in value, and used only a nominal amount of the client's lifetime gift exemption.

Credentials

Education

- Santa Clara University, J.D., cum laude
- Santa Clara University, Certificate of Advanced Accounting Proficiency
- University of Arizona, B.A., Political Science with Minor in Computer Science, cum laude

Bar Admissions

- California (2006)

Recognition

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, "One's to Watch," 2021

Accolades

Presentations

- Podcast Guest, "[Episode 5: Mastering Estate Planning](#)," October 3, 2024
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Professional Activities

- Silicon Valley Bar Association, Treasurer, 2016-2022