Fredrikson

F. John Williams III

SHAREHOLDER

Fargo
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Services

Family & Closely Held Businesses

Trusts & Estates

Trusts & Estates Litigation

Real Estate & Construction

Tax Disputes & Litigation

John provides sophisticated estate planning, business succession, and trust and probate administration solutions for business owners, farmers, ranchers, executives and professionals.

John uses his educational background, experiences working with families and work ethic learned on his family's farm to assist clients with estate planning, business succession, and probate and trust administration. John specializes in issues pertaining to family business succession, asset protection and tax issues. He and his team provide legal services to business owners, farmers, ranchers, mineral owners, executives and professionals in a comprehensive, organized and timely manner. They do this by listening to his client's needs and providing solutions that not only provide positive financial outcomes but also emotionally satisfying results.

Experience

Business Succession Planning

- Family Farming Operations
- Banks
- Oilfield Service
- Manufacturing Companies
- Ranchers
- Real Estate Development Companies
- Farm Equipment Dealerships
- Auto Dealerships
- Truck Dealerships
- Construction Equipment Dealerships
- Construction Companies
- Insurance Agencies
- Software Companies
- Radio and Television Stations

- Professional Services Firms
- Wholesalers and Distributors
- Seed Companies
- Bars and Restaurants
- Nursery/Garden Centers
- Water Well Drilling Companies
- Resorts
- Dental Practices
- Pharmacies

Tax Planning

- Estate Tax
- Gift Tax
- Generation Skipping Tax
- Income Tax

Document Solutions

- Wills
- Revocable Trusts
- Irrevocable Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Health Care Directives
- Partnership Agreements
- Operating Agreements (LLC)
- Corporate Documents
- Buy-Sell Agreements
- Deeds and other Conveyances
- Probate & Trust Administration Documents
- Premarital Agreements

Credentials

Education

- William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., *cum laude*
- University of St. Thomas, B.A. in Accounting, *magna cum laude*

Admissions

- North Dakota, 2005
- Minnesota, 2006

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Litigation-Trusts and Estates, 2021-2024; Trusts and Estates, 2021-2024
- *Chambers High Net Worth Guide*, Private Wealth Law, North Dakota, 2017-2023
- *Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated*, 2016-2023
- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, 2017-present
- *Great Plains Super Lawyers*, Estate & Probate, 2017-2022
- Commencement Speaker, Fargo Moorhead Chamber Leadership, 2008
- Certified Public Accountant, MN (Inactive)

Civic & Professional

Professional Activities

- State Bar Association of North Dakota
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Cass County Bar Association
- Clay County Bar Association
- Minnesota Assistance Council - Veterans, Pro Bono Attorney, 2013-present
- Red River Valley Estate Planning Council Past Board Member, Past President

Community

- Growth Initiative Fund of the Greater Fargo/Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, Director
- National MS Society – Upper Midwest Chapter, Director, 2009-2014
- MSUM Graduate Studies Advisory Board, Director, 2009-2010

News

Firm News | 08.17.2023
Fredrikson Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2024

Firm News | 07.21.2023
Fredrikson Receives Top Rankings in 2023 Chambers High Net Worth Guide

Article | 08.18.2022
Fredrikson & Byron Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2023

Firm News | 07.29.2022
Fredrikson Attorneys Named 2022 Great Plains Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

Firm News | 07.19.2022
Fredrikson & Byron Receives Top Rankings in 2022 Chambers High Net Worth Guide

Firm News | 07.22.2021
Fredrikson & Byron Recognized in Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2021

Firm News | 12.01.2017
Attorney F. John Williams III Named an American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Fellow

Publications & Presentations

"Take A Moment To Read This Article To Understand Why Making Good Fiduciary Designations Takes Real Time And Deep Thought," *Fargo INC!,* October 7, 2021

Co-Presenter, "Wealth Transfer Strategies in Today's Environment," Western Dakota Estate Planning Council CLE, Bismarck, ND, October 20, 2020

"Pandemic's Economic Opportunities Abound. Here Are Some Big Financial Planning Advantages You May Have Ignored," *Fargo INC!,* October 8, 2020

Co-Presenter, "Estate Planning in Today's Environment," 2020 SBAND Destination CLE, Maui, HI, February 24, 2020

Co-Presenter, "Strategies to Protect the Family Farm in a Changing World," Great Plains Land Expo, June 26, 2019

"How to Keep Family Farms in the 'Family'," Butler Machinery, March 2018

"Estate Planning for Farmers and Ranchers," National Business Institute, February 2013, June 2015 and February 2018

"Dissecting the Modern Trust," State Bar Association of North Dakota, February 2018

"ND LLC Act Update," State Bar Association of North Dakota, December 2016 and December 2017

“Dissecting Trusts and Advanced Wealth Transfer Strategy,” Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C., October 2017

Co-Author, "Taking the Fear Factor Out of Succession Planning," *Fargo INC!*, August 2017

“Grantor Trusts,” National Business Institute, December 2016

Co-Presenter, “North Dakota’s Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act,” June 22, 2016

“Farm Business Law,” National Business Institute, June 2014 and March 2016

“Ag Business Choices for Succession and Tax Planning,” North Dakota Dairy Convention, November 2015

“Financial and Legal Items to Consider,” Conference for Aging Adults – Community of Care, September 2014

“Farm Business Succession … So You Have a Successor, Now How do You Get There?,” First State Bank of ND Growers Meeting, January 2014