

Carolyn S. Wenzel

P (615) 742-4589

F (615) 742-4539

cwenzel@srvhlaw.com

Carolyn Wenzel represents companies, tax-exempt organizations, families and individuals in the areas of governance, tax, advocacy and estate planning.

She regularly counsels nonprofit entities and tax-exempt organizations, including public charities, private foundations, trade and professional associations, and religious and educational organizations in the areas of formation, investment decision-making, endowment fund establishment and modification, governance and business planning, regulatory compliance, tax-exemption qualification, dispute resolution, mergers and dissolution.

Carolyn also advises families and individuals in business succession, tax and estate planning, estate and trust administration, and fiduciary compliance. She regularly handles probate administration, conservatorship matters, estate and trust disputes, and probate litigation involving heirs, beneficiaries and fiduciaries.

Her experience includes helping national and Tennessee-based companies with tax planning and problem solving related to Tennessee state and local taxes, including refund claims, voluntary disclosures, audits, administrative conferences and hearings, and judicial appeals. Her representations include controversy work in sales and use tax, business tax, and local property tax for commercial and industrial property owners. Her experience includes counsel to companies in the transportation, communications and energy industries before state revenue agencies and local tax assessors.

Carolyn is widely recognized by her peers for her contributions to the profession. The *Chambers USA High Net Worth Guide* has ranked her Band 3 for her work in Private Wealth Law, while *Best Lawyers in America*® has listed her in the areas of Litigation – Trusts and Estates; Litigation and Controversy – Tax; Non-Profit/Charities Law; and Trusts and Estates. *Best Lawyers in America*® has also recognized Carolyn as its "Lawyer of the Year" in Nashville for Non-Profit/Charities Law and for Litigation – Trusts and Estates.

Carolyn is a Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator by the Tennessee Supreme Court.



- Grand Valley State University, M.S. in Taxation, 2002
- University of Kansas, J.D., M.A. in Philosophy, 1993
- Hollins University, B.A., cum laude, 1989

Admissions

- Tennessee
- Michigan
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Tax Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee

Recognition

- Best Lawyers in America® "Lawyer of the Year," Non-Profit/Charities Law (2016, 2019); Litigation Trusts and Estates (2002)
- Best Lawyers in America®, Litigation Trusts and Estates (2013 2026); Litigation and Controversy Tax (2013 2026); Non-Profit/Charities Law (2012 2026); Trusts and Estates (2020 2026)
- Chambers USA High Net Worth Guide, Private Wealth Law (2024 2025)
- FiftyForward Harriet Foley Leadership Award (2015)
- Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated
- Mid-South Super Lawyers, Tax (2015)
- Nashville Business Journal "Best of the Bar" (2014 2015, 2018)
- Nashville Business Journal "Women of Influence" Awards Finalist Finalist (2013)
- Tennessee Supreme Court Attorneys for Justice Pro Bono Honor Roll (2014 2016, 2018 2020, 2023)

Professional Activities

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Estate Planning and Probate and Tax Law Sections, Tennessee Bar Association
- Member, Estate Planning and Probate Section, Nashville Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of Michigan
- Member, Tennessee Board of Law Examiners appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court (2022 present)
- Fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation
- Member, International Women's Forum, Tennessee Chapter
- Member, Leadership Nashville (Class of 2016)

Civic Activities

- Founders' Advisory Board Member, Studio Bank (2018 present)
- Board Member, United Methodist Foundation for the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference (2012 present)
- Member, Board of Trustees, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, United Methodist Church (2015 2024)
- Board Member, Community of St. Mary (2014 2024)
- Board Member, Immunization Action Coalition (Immunize.org) (2021 2024)
- Member, Electric Power Board, Nashville Electric Service (2015 2021)
- Board Member, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, General Counsel (2020 2021)
- Board Member, Nashville Symphony (2018 2024)
- Member, Mayor's Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee (2016 2017)
- Board Member, Nashville Opera (2011 2017), President (2015 2016)
- Board Member, Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville (2009 2017)
- Board Member, Calvary Young Children's School (2014 2016)
- Board Member, FiftyForward (2009 2015)

