Henry M. Grix

Member & Estate Planning Practice Leader

hgrix@dickinsonwright.com
T 248.433.7548
F 248.433.7274

PROMINENT ASSIGNMENTS

Develop and implement enforceable estate plans for the management and transfer of assets during life and at death in ways that avoid unnecessary taxation, preserve privacy and protect loved ones.

Counsel clients about how to “stretch” the distribution of retirement plans so as to defer and minimize income taxation.

Assist individuals who are contemplating marriage or divorce to protect their assets and loved ones through prenuptial agreements, trusts and other enforceable arrangements.

Assist senior owners of closely-held family businesses in transferring ownership to the next generation through sales of business interests that preserve cash flow for the senior generation and shift growth to the junior generation.

Structure grantor retained annuity trusts--particularly in a low interest rate environment--to transfer volatile growth assets to the next generation with minimal gift tax consequences.

Advise multiple generations about the creation and management of their family limited liability company that has facilitates transfers to younger family members at a discount.

Establish qualified personal residence trusts to transfer valuable and appreciating homes to children at minimal gift and estate tax cost.

Counsel individual and corporate fiduciaries in the efficient and timely administration of estates and trusts.

Secure protection for clients suffering from lifetime disability through private trusts and, if necessary, through court-supervised guardianships and conservatorships.

Negotiate resolution of Internal Revenue Service gift and estate tax audits on favorable terms, including recent rollback of challenge to the valuation of closely-held stock to 25% of amount originally claimed by IRS.

Design flexible estate plans for our changing times, including provisions for the suspension or withholding of distributions, the extension of the term of a trust and/or the early termination of a trust.

Counsel clients about achieving their charitable intentions through tax-efficient outright gifts, “lead” and/or charitable remainder trusts. private foundations, donor advised funds and/or supporting organizations.

Counsel public charities about securing and retaining tax exempt status, including compliance issues in a changing and challenging environment.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Due to the confidential nature of our work, we do not identify our individual clients by name, but they include:
  - Individuals and families whose net worth ranges from
  - $2 million to over $1 billion
  - Owners and managers of family businesses
  - Senior executives of publicly traded companies
  - Unmarried couples seeking legally enforceable arrangements
- Professional fiduciaries, including JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Northern Trust Bank, FSB, and Comerica Bank
- Public charities including The Community Foundation of St. Clair County, The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, The Gilmour Fund, a supporting organization of such foundation, The Detroit Club Preservation Foundation, and The Health and Recreation Center Coalition (Huron County)

AREAS OF PRACTICE EMPHASIS

- Estate Planning
- Estate and Gift Taxation
- Estate and Trust Administration
- Charitable Giving
- Nonprofit Organizations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2010 Detroit-area Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers in America*
- American College of Trust & Estate Counsel, Fellow (Elected in 1992)
- Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*
- Michigan’s Top 100 Super Lawyers, 2006 through 2009

Henry M. Grix

Member & Estate Planning Practice Leader

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Probate & Estate Planning Council, Chair 2003-2004, governing body of the Probate and Estate Planning Section, the largest practice section of the State Bar of Michigan; currently ex-officio member
- Probate and Estate Planning Advisory Board, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Legal and Financial Advisory Network of The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
- Financial and Estate Planning Council of Metropolitan Detroit
- State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section and Taxation Section
- American Bar Association, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The HOPE Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Grants and Development Committees
- The Detroit Club Preservation Foundation, Secretary-Treasurer
- Detroit Institute of Arts, Member, The Tannahill Estate Planning Council
- The Detroit Institute of Arts, Visiting Committee for European Sculpture & Decorative Arts, Education Chair

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Dynasty Trusts: Is Anything Forever", Institute for Continuing Legal Education 49th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, Acme and Plymouth, Michigan, May and June, 2009
- "The New Biology and Planning for the Next Generation", American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Annual Meeting, March, 2009, Rancho Mirage, California
- "Planning for the Non-traditional Family", Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, August 21, 2008, Grand Rapids, Michigan and November 11, 2008, Troy, Michigan
- "Planning Techniques for the Taxable Estate: QTIP Marital Trust Drafting", Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Plymouth, Michigan, December 11, 2007
- "Estate Planning for Non-Traditional Families", Institute for Continuing Legal Education 47th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, Acme and Plymouth, Michigan, May and June, 2007

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, B.A. 1970 (*with honors*)

University of Michigan, J.D. 1977