

Ansley Chapman Cella

ATTORNEY

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OVERVIEW

Ansley Chapman Cella, a partner in the firm's Trusts and Estates group, has assisted closely-held business owners and high net worth individuals with estate planning matters for over twenty years. Ansley received her LL.M in Estate Planning and advises on tax and non-tax aspects of lifetime and post-mortem wealth transfers, business succession, asset protection, and charitable planning.

Prior to joining Smith Anderson, Ansley practiced trusts and estates law at a Raleigh law firm.

EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Smith Anderson, Ansley:

- Drafted wills, living wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, special needs trusts, financial and health care powers of attorney, and living wills.
- Advised on revocable trust funding and non-probate beneficiary designations.
- Implemented advanced estate planning techniques including generation-skipping dynasty trusts, life insurance trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, qualified personal residence trusts, and charitable trusts.
- Transferred assets to family holding companies to centralize management and preserve multi-generational wealth.
- Assisted business owners and corporate executives with planning in advance of transfer or sale of ownership interests.
- Implemented family charitable planning through use of private foundations, charitable remainder and lead trusts, and donor-advised funds.
- Prepared federal gift tax returns to report lifetime use of federal gift and generation-transfer tax exemptions.
- Assisted fiduciaries with post-mortem estate and trust administration, including probate and non-probate asset transfer, trust funding, and estate tax return preparation.
- Resolved outdated irrevocable trust issues through termination, modification, or decanting.

CREDENTIALS

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers*®, Trusts and Estates (2018-2022), Tax Law (2022)
- *Business North Carolina's Legal Elite*, Tax and Estate Planning (2012, 2018, 2019, 2021-2023)
- North Carolina *Super Lawyers* (2021-2023)
- North Carolina *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars (2009-2013)
- *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* "Best Lawyers in Raleigh," Trusts and Estates (2017)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Rated for Highest Level of Professional Excellence

Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable Paula H. Thomas, Chief Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 15th Judicial Circuit

Education

- University of Miami School of Law, LL.M., Estate Planning, 2000
- University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 1998
 - Dean's List
 - Phi Delta Phi
- Clemson University, B.A., History (Minor in Commerce Communications), 1994

Bar & Court Admissions

- North Carolina
- South Carolina

