

Ansley Chapman Cella

ATTORNEY

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919.821.6771



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- Resolved outdated irrevocable trust issues through termination, modification, or decanting.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

- *Chambers and Partners: High Net Worth, Private Wealth Law* (2023)
 - Best Lawyers®
 - Trusts and Estates (2018-2024)
 - Tax Law (2022-2024)
 - Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law (2024)
 - *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
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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
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Bar & Court Admissions

- North Carolina
 - South Carolina
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