Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.
Erie • Pittsburgh • Jamestown, NY
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Estate Planning & Administration

The Estate Planning & Administration Group of Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C. has the diverse knowledge necessary to create anything from a basic will to the most sophisticated business succession plan.

Our primary estate planning goal is to develop strategies that maximize asset protection and wealth preservation for clients and their heirs. We listen carefully, understand thoroughly, and then strive to create estate plans that fulfill our clients' personal desires, family needs, business interests, and philanthropic goals at the lowest possible tax cost. Our dedicated and knowledgeable staff helps achieve these goals.

When the time comes to administer a plan, our attorneys work with our estate administration paralegals to provide the most efficient and best possible results. Our team of estate administration paralegals is the largest in the region, with more than 100 years of combined experience. Also, our estate team has been recognized by Chambers Spotlight in Pennsylvania, for both 2026 and 2027, specifically for trusts and estate matters.

Estate Administration Testimonial & More

We consult with certified public accountants, corporate fiduciaries, insurance consultants, and investment advisers to assure comprehensive solutions to each client's unique needs in areas such as:

Basic Estate Planning

- Simple wills
- Wills establishing trusts for minor children
- Durable powers of attorney
- Healthcare powers of attorney and living wills
- Guardianships
- Standby guardianships

Complex Estate Planning

- Wills and testamentary trusts
- Revocable and irrevocable trusts, including GRATs and GRUTs
- Special needs trusts for beneficiaries unable to care for themselves
- Asset protection plans, including clients in high risk occupations
- IRA trust planning

- Complex charitable and philanthropic gift planning using trusts and other tools
- Federal gift and estate tax planning, appeals, and more
- Legacy planning
- Fiduciary income tax planning
- Comprehensive multigenerational estate plans which utilize:
    - Family gifting programs
    - Grantor trusts
    - Non-grantor trusts
    - Testamentary trusts
    - Self-settled asset protection trusts
    - Corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and other business entities
    - Qualified plans, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), and other tax-deferred assets
    - The MaxProtect Plan®

Business Succession Planning

Enabling the transfer of a family business to the next generation at the lowest possible tax cost through the use of:

- Wills, testamentary trusts, and revocable, irrevocable and grantor trusts
- Corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and other business entities
- Buy/sell shareholder agreements, installment sales
- Complex gifting plans, including voting and non-voting stock
- Charitable gifting
- Irrevocable life insurance trusts
- The MaxProtect Plan®
- The Family Private Equity (or Enterprise) Model

More on Business Succession Planning

Business Succession Testimonial & More

Disability/Medicaid Planning

Maximizing the level of benefits clients receive from the federal and state government while preserving their assets through use of:

- Nursing home/medical assistance asset protection plans
- Special needs trusts
- Income-only trusts
- Complex multigenerational estate planning
- Learn more about our Elder Law services, or view our Elder Law FAQs

Trust & Estate Litigation

- Representation of beneficiaries and fiduciaries in trust and estate litigation, including fiduciary duty cases and modifications of wills and trust instrument
- Orphan's Court representation
- Successfully defended a claim brought by an estate administrator and the Attorney General seeking repayment of a $2.2 million gift made by a decedent during her life. The matter was tried before the

Crawford County Court of Common Pleas, Orphan's Court Division, and affirmed on appeal by the Superior Court

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