

# Brian C. Sparks

## Shareholder

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## Practice & Industry Areas

- Private Wealth Services
- Tax Law

## Education

- New York University School of Law, LL.M in Taxation, 1986
- St. Louis University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1985
  - Academic scholar
  - Order of the Woolsack
  - *St. Louis University Law Journal*
    - Managing editor
    - Tax law editor
- Southeast Missouri State University, B.S., 1978
- Southeast Missouri State University, A.S., 1978

## Bar & Court Admissions

- Florida Bar, 1992
- Missouri Bar, 1985
- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Tax Court
- All Florida State Courts
- All Missouri State Courts

## Overview

Brian Sparks is a dual-board certified wills, trusts, estates, and tax law attorney whose practice includes tax, estate, asset protection, and privacy protection planning for wealthy individuals, business executives, professionals, and closely-held businesses, as well as tax controversy matters against the Internal Revenue Service and probate and trust litigation. He is a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and serves on its Asset Protection and Business Planning Committees.

Brian is active in the Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law (RPPTL) Section as a member of its Executive Council, Estate and Trust Tax Planning Committee, and Asset Protection Committee. He also serves as liaison between the RPPTL Section and the Florida Bar's Tax Section through which he has worked on these two sections' business entity legislative activities for over two decades. Prior to attending law school he practiced as a Certified Public Accountant.

Brian's primary community service is as a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician, Wilderness First Responder, Search and Rescue Technician, and disaster and emergency preparedness educator. He has participated in preparedness and response efforts involving a wide range of disasters and emergencies, including earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, floods, tornadoes, and urban and wilderness medical emergencies. He has taken and taught courses in those areas with the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, National Association for Search and Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, Greater Tampa Community Emergency Response Team, and Volunteer Florida.

## Honors

- AV Preeminent Rated as independently determined by Martindale-Hubbell
- *Chambers & Partners*, "Leaders in Their Field," Tax: Estate Planning, 2011-16
- Chambers High Net Worth guide, Private Wealth Law: Florida, 2016-2019
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2007-22
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation and Controversy, Tampa, 2014-15
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Tax Law, Tax Litigation and Controversy, Trusts and Estates Law, Trusts and Estates Litigation, 2005-18, 2020-22
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Business Edition: The Litigation Issue, 2021

## Publications & Presentations

- "Learning from the Pandemic for Disaster Preparation," author, ActionLine, The Florida Bar RPPTL Section publication, Summer 2020
- "[Revised Florida Business Corporation Act](#)," presenter, 29th Annual RPPTL Legislative & Caselaw Update Seminar, July 26, 2019
- "[Asset Protection/Exempt Assets](#)," presenter, Florida Bar Annual Wills, Trusts and Estates Certification Review Course and Advanced Practice Update, April 5, 2019
- "[Disaster & Emergency Preparedness: New Tools & Techniques](#)," presenter, Polk County Estate Planning Council, October 23, 2018

- “[Taxation and Representation: All the New Tax Law for Estates and Trusts](#),” Florida Legal Education Association Probate Team seminar, Orlando, Oct. 5, 2018
- “[Podcast: Special Industry Concerns as they Relate to Estate Planning for Family Businesses](#),” The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), Sept., 2018

## **Professional Associations & Memberships**

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)
  - Fellow
  - Asset Protection Committee
  - Business Planning Committee
    - Pass Through Entities Subcommittee
- The Florida Bar
  - Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section
    - Executive Council
    - Estate and Trust Tax Planning Committee
    - Asset Protection Committee
      - Former chair
    - Disaster and Emergency Planning and Response Committee
      - Chair

## **Civic & Community Service**

- Leadership Tampa, alumni
- Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician
- Wilderness First Responder
- Search & Rescue Technician