



## Kira S. Masteller

Shareholder

### Contact

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### Practice Groups

- Tax Planning
- Guardianships
- Irrevocable Trusts
- Revocable Living Trusts
- Trust Administration
- Trusts and Estate Planning
- Estate Gift Tax Exemptions
- Powers of Attorney
- Same Sex Couples
- Business Succession Planning
- Insurance Trusts
- QPRTs
- Specialized Trusts

### Biography

Kira S. Masteller is a California trust and estate planning attorney and Shareholder at our Firm.

Her practice focus includes Federal estate and gift tax planning, estate planning, business succession planning, trusts, wills, powers of attorney, post-death trust administration, and probate.

With over 20 years of dedicated work in these areas, Ms. Masteller also has experience defending senior clients from adult children attempting to control family assets, and in setting up highly specialized trusts to benefit charities, family pets and other alternative beneficiaries.

A trusted advisor for our clients, Ms. Masteller's practice also includes:

- Maximizing benefits of the current, Federal Estate and Gift Tax Exemption.
- Controlling assets while reducing estate taxes for our clients and their heirs.
- Establishing special trusts to suit individual and family needs.
- Keeping companies fiscally viable when a partner should retire or become disabled.

- Using life insurance plans to ensure both business continuity and income for the heirs when a partner passes.

Working throughout California, Ms. Masteller represents a broad range of clients, including: families, individuals, trust and estate administrators, businesses, corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies.

Ms. Masteller's deep commitment to providing clients with the highest caliber service is reflected in her being named a **Best Lawyer Southern California** by *Best Lawyers Magazine*; a **Southern California Rising Star** and **Super Lawyer** each year since 2010, as published by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. She was also designated one of the **Top Women Lawyers in Southern California** in *Los Angeles Magazine's Business Edition*.

In 2008 Ms. Masteller founded the women's networking group "Women In Network" (WIN); is a **past Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Trust & Estates Executive Committee**, and past **President of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association**.

Ms. Masteller was **appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** to serve a four year term as a member of the **Board of the California Prison Industry Authority** in 2010 focusing on giving prisoners an education to lead productive lives upon release. Ms. Masteller volunteers each month at a legal clinic for a battered women's shelter in Santa Monica.

Ms. Masteller is a tireless advocate who explains the complexities of estate and tax planning in practical terms – which allows clients to comfortably plan for their futures. Additionally, she strives to work in an organized, timely, professional manner, always making individualized service her first priority.

## **Publications & Noteworthy Legal Activities**

- Co-Presenter, *2019 Year-End Tax Planning* – MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, November 2019
- Co-Presenter, *2018 Tax, Trusts & Estate Planning: Keeping Up with Legislative Changes* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, May and June 2018
- Presenter, *Year-End Tax & Estate Planning: Do We Have Tax Reform?* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, December 2017
- Co-Presenter, *Family Business, Business Succession and Estate Planning Techniques* - San Fernando Valley Bar Association MCLE presentation, November 2017
- Co-Presenter, *Tax, Trusts & Estate Planning for 2017* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client

Seminar Series, May 2017

- Quoted, *Buy a Home Now, Move In After Seller Dies* - *The Los Angeles Times*, January 2017
- Co-Presenter, *Year-End Estate, Gift & Property Tax Planning* - MCLE and CPE accredited Seminar Series, November 2016
- Co-Presenter, *Tax, Trusts & Estate Planning* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, May 2015
- Presenter, *Family Business: Business & Estate Planning Techniques* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, April 2014
- Co-Presenter, *Year-End Tax & Estate Planning 2013* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, December 2013
- Co-Presenter, *Tax & Estate Planning 2013: Stability at Last?* - MCLE and CPE accredited Client Seminar Series, February 2012
- Author, *Understanding Conflicts of Interest in Estate Planning* - *Valley Lawyer Magazine*, September 2013
- Co-Presenter, *The \$5.12 Million Gift Tax Exemption: Estate Planning Opportunities Expiring December 31* - MCLE credited Client Seminar Series, September 2012
- Quoted, *LegalZoom Files for IPO, Plans to Expand Reach* - *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, May 2012
- Co-Presenter, *Good Business: Wealth Management & Estate Planning* - MCLE credited Client Seminar Series, May 2012
- Author, *What You Might Not Know About Life Insurance* - *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, April 2012
- Co-Presenter, *2011 Year-End Tax and Estate Planning* - MCLE credited Seminar Series
- Co-Presenter, *Family Law and Estate Planning Crossover Issues* - Pasadena Bar Association, 2011
- Co-Presenter, *Family Law and Estate Planning Crossover Issues* - Beverly Hills Bar Association, 2011
- Co-Author, *Real Estate: Gifting Real Property Now* - *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, September 2011
- Author, *Revocation of a Family Trust without the Knowledge of the Cotrustee* - *Los Angeles Lawyer*, June 2010
- Author, *Know Your Rights: Couples Can Limit Conflict the Second Time Around* - *Daily News*,

May 2009

- Author, *You have a Trust. Now What?* - Estate Planning Points of Interest

## Memberships

- **San Fernando Valley Bar Association** - President 2016-17 - President-Elect 2016 - Secretary 2015 - Treasurer 2014
- **State Bar of California** - Trusts & Estates Section - Taxation Section
- **Los Angeles County Bar Association** - Trust & Estates Executive Committee, past member
- **Women in Network (WIN)**, Founder
- **Sojourn Battered Women's Shelter**
- **California Prison Industry Authority**, Governor-appointed Boardmember 2011-2015
- **Woodland Hills Estate Planning Council**

## Awards

- ***Best Lawyers: Trusts and Estates* by Best Lawyers Magazine, 2018 - present**
- ***Top Female Attorneys in Southern California 2015*, Los Angeles Magazine**
- ***Southern California Super Lawyer*, Super Lawyers Magazine, since 2014**
- ***Southern California Rising Star*, Super Lawyers Magazine, 2010-2013**
- ***Top Women Lawyers in Southern California*, Los Angeles Magazine's Business Edition, 2012**

## Education

- San Fernando Valley College of Law Juris Doctor (2002)