



Brenda Jackson-Cooper

Partner

1717 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-5343
T: 202.662.3427
F: 202.393.7601
bjackson-cooper@ipbtax.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Estate Planning

Estate Administration

Exempt Organizations & Charitable Giving

Gift & Estate Tax Planning

Income Tax Planning

International Planning & Compliance

Privately Held Businesses

Wills & Trusts

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Law School,
2002, JD

Yale University, 1993, BA

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

Approachable and practical, Brenda uses her legal and interpersonal skills to demystify the estate planning process for clients. Outside the office, Brenda enjoys watching Washington Nationals baseball with Georgie and Willard, the world's cutest canine baseball fans.

Brenda's clients rely on her for continuing advice across a broad range of estate, gift and generation-skipping tax planning matters and appreciate her resourcefulness in crafting estate plans that strike an effective balance between minimizing taxes and furthering non-tax goals. Brenda is known for listening to each client's unique concerns and using her proficiency with structuring the exercise of limited powers of appointment and implementing non-judicial trust modification techniques to develop strategies that benefit multiple generations of family members.

A client who has been with the firm for decades recently characterized Brenda as an attorney who "exudes the sort of client-centered thinking and creativity that make for the greatest accomplishment of goals," and a fellow advisor refers to her as, "a really can-do lawyer, who always goes the extra mile and can distill complex technical issues into practical commercial advice."

As part of her practice, Brenda assists individuals who are neither citizens nor residents of the United States with making tax-advantaged arrangements for family members who are U.S. citizens. In addition, clients who are U.S. citizens or residents with non-U.S. holdings, or who wish to benefit family members who hold dual residency in the United States and another country, rely on Brenda to work with



| 2 | Brenda Jackson-Cooper

non-U.S. counsel to design and implement integrated estate plans and lifetime giving strategies.

Brenda also has extensive experience with administering large estates, all of which are multi-jurisdictional in nature. The family members of deceased clients find her approach to estate administration both efficient and supportive and appreciate her willingness to educate them about the process as they go through what nearly always is a difficult time.

Prior to joining the firm in 2011, Brenda practiced for nine years in the Estate Planning Group in the Washington, DC office of an AmLaw 100 firm, where she helped many first generation wealth creators navigate the multi-faceted tax and estate planning involved in exiting their closely held businesses.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Participated in the design and implementation of a plan whereby beneficiaries of a terminating GST grandfathered trust transferred trust interests to grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs) in order to leverage the mortality risk associated with the trust termination date.
- Assisted a U.S. citizen and his non-citizen spouse with U.S. compliance matters relating to a reorganization of entities holding their non-U.S. personal and real property, followed by a contribution of their shares in the entities to newly created non-U.S. revocable trusts.
- Engaged in extensive post-mortem planning by structuring and implementing a net gift of marital trust income interests in order to reduce the federal and state estate taxes ultimately payable by the beneficiary's estate.
- Funded GRATs, sold discounted family business assets, made judicious use of client's deceased spouse's unused exclusion amount (DSUE) and incorporated planning based on the predeceased ancestor rule to substantially reduce the GST tax payable upon client's death.

HONORS & AWARDS

Chambers & Partners High Net Worth Guide 2020 - present

Best Lawyers in America 2024 - present

Super Lawyers 2024-present

Washingtonian Magazine, Washington, DC's Best Lawyers: Trusts and Estates, 2020 - present

Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business for Wealth Management: Eastern Region 2007

Ally of Justice Award for pro bono work on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign 2003



| 3 | Brenda Jackson-Cooper

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association, Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section

District of Columbia Bar, Estates, Trusts and Probate Law Section

SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS

- "Will You Be OK When I'm Gone? An Exploration of Life's Questions," UBS Private Wealth Management Panel Discussion, Washington, DC, October 27, 2015.
- "Estate Planning for the International Client," DC Bar Estate Planning Tax Series, Washington DC, March 24, 2015, Co-Presenter with Douglas M. Andre (*Presentation*)
- "Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples After U.S. v. Windsor and Rev. Rul. 2013-17," DC Bar CLE Program, Washington DC, October 17, 2013
- "SC&H Financial Advisors "Establishing Tax Planning Success Post-DOMA" *Webinar*. Participant in webinar addressing the impact of U.S. v. Windsor and Revenue Ruling 2013-17 on income, gift and estate tax planning for same-sex couples, September 17, 2013
- "Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Life & Estate Planning Symposium," Participant in panel discussion regarding the impact of *U.S. v. Windsor* on tax and estate planning for LGBT individuals and couples. Washington DC, July 30, 2013
- "Update on Same-Sex Marriage and Domestic Partnerships: What You Need to Know in DC, MD & VA," DC Bar CLE Program, Washington DC, March 19, 2013, Co-Presenter with Kasey Place
- "Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples," DC Bar Taxation Section, Estate Planning Committee Luncheon Program, Washington, DC, March 14, 2013 (*Presentation*)
- "Update on Same-Sex Marriage and Domestic Partnerships: What You Need to Know in DC, MD & VA," DC Bar CLE Program, Washington, DC, December 5, 2011
- "Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples Residing in the District of Columbia," DC Bar Taxation Section/Estate Planning Committee Luncheon Program, Washington, DC, December 9, 2010
- "Washington Animal Rescue League Estate Planning Seminar," Washington, DC, April 10, 2009

NEWS

- March 5, 2026
IPB Recognized in Best Law Firms 2026



| 4 | Brenda Jackson-Cooper

- March 5, 2026
Twenty-One IPB Attorneys Recognized in Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch 2026 Editions
- July 24, 2025
Ivins, Phillips & Barker Attorneys Recognized in Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2025
- May 30, 2025
Thirteen IPB Attorneys Included in Super Lawyers 2025
- November 7, 2024
IPB Recognized in Best Law Firms 2025
- August 15, 2024
Twenty-Two IPB Attorneys Recognized in Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch 2025 Editions
- July 18, 2024
Chambers Recognizes IPB's Estate Planning Practice and Four of Our Partners In Its 2024 High Net Worth Guide