



Melanie L. Bartlett

Director

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With experience practicing tax law as in-house and outside counsel, Melanie offers her clients a unique well-rounded perspective on both the legal and business operational issues that arise.

Her practice focuses on representing nonprofit organizations in a wide array of areas. She has formed and secured tax-exempt status for complex organizations, including charter schools, museums, religious-based entities, educational centers, private foundations, and public charities with various missions. She has represented nonprofit organizations in tax-exempt bond financing transactions, sponsorship agreements, complex grant and subgrant negotiations, and expansions into new mission-driven activities. Boards of directors rely on her to guide them through sensitive, complicated issues regarding financial statements, lobbying compliance, treatment of revenues and expenses, compensation, and disclosure of items on annual returns.

Melanie also handles tax issues on behalf of her clients. Her experience includes drafting partnership and LLC agreements, structuring complex organizational arrangements, and advising on transactional tax planning. She has guided clients through complicated real estate transactions, including like-kind exchanges, tax credits deals, and public bond financing. Her clients trust her to lead them through planned giving options in trusts, wills, and family limited liability partnerships.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, Master of Laws in Taxation, 2005

Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2004

Southern Methodist University, B.A., Finance; Real Estate Finance, *cum laude*, 2001

Bar Admissions

Colorado
Texas
District of Columbia

Practice Areas

Wealth Planning, Trusts, and Estates
Estate and Gift Planning
Family Business Succession Planning
Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Organizations
Corporate
Securities Offerings, Regulation, and Compliance

Sectors

Alternative Energy

Professional Affiliations

- Colorado Bar Association
 - Executive Council, 2018-2020
- Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
 - Board of Directors, 2023

Recognitions

- Law Week Colorado's 2022 Barrister's Best Nonprofit Lawyer
- Albert E. Arent Pro Bono Award 2010
- SOME (So Others Might Eat) Volunteer Award 2011

Presentations

- "Formation and Governance of a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation," A Primer on Advising Nonprofit Organizations in Colorado Event, Colorado Bar Association Continuing Legal Education (August 31, 2022)
- "Collecting for Philanthropy", Denver Art Museum (January 31, 2023)

Representative Experience

- Represented the Denver Art Museum in a merger with the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art. Read more about the merger [here](#).
- Successfully represented C4 in the acquisition of Lake County Solar Garden.