Michael P. Witzke

Member; Chair, Estate Planning and Probate
Detroit
P: 248.593.2948

Practice Focus

- Estate planning and probate
- Probate and estate administration
- Trust administration
- Charitable planning
- Family and closely held business counseling

Mike is the Chair of the Estate Planning and Probate Practice Group and practices in the areas of estate and gift tax planning, special needs planning, asset protection, charitable giving, elder law, and business succession planning. He focuses on helping clients protect and transfer wealth efficiently.

Mike works with high net worth families, primarily business owners, physicians and athletes. He practices in Metro Detroit, Chicago and South Florida.

A Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant, Mike holds the Retirement Planning Specialist designation from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School. He is also a member of the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Mike is a past president of the Financial Planning Association of Michigan, a member of the board of directors for Crossroads for Youth and the Clarkston Foundation.

Mike earned his J.D. from Wayne State University in 1989. He received a B.A. from Michigan State University, James Madison College in 1986.

Admissions - State

- Michigan
- Illinois
- Florida

Education

- Wayne State University Law School
- Michigan State University, James Madison College

Honors and Awards

- Selected for inclusion in *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2011-2017)
- AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Public Service and Volunteerism

- Clarkston Foundation (Board Member)
- Crossroads for Youth (Board Member)

Alerts

- 6 techniques high net worth individuals should be considering now
- MH Business Exchange Episode 10 helps businesses understand securities considerations when raising capital

Blog Posts

- Considering tax reduction planning? Take action now
- 3 legal documents every 18-year-old needs to have
- Update on possible tax changes and wealth transfer planning
- Estate planning update - Important tax changes ahead
- 3 important legal documents for college freshmen
- Top 10 tips for asset protection in estate planning
- Charitable giving under the new tax law
- What is succession planning?
- Is estate tax repeal a done deal?
- Top 10 ways to protect your assets
- Durable Power of Attorney: What you need to know
- Still searching for the perfect gift for your high school graduate?
- Asset protection for children

News

- Stories from the front lines: Probate and trust litigation
- MH Business Exchange Episode 17 covers the role of fiduciaries
- MH Business Exchange Episode 16 covers Clean Water Act, Clean Power Plan and other key issues in environmental law
- MH Business Exchange Episode 12 helps healthcare providers prepare and avoid payor audits
- MH Business Exchange Episode 11 helps businesses avoid the hidden dangers of antitrust violations
- MH Business Exchange Episode 9 helps businesses comply with the EU’s new data protection regulation
- MH Business Exchange Episode 8 helps executives understand compensation during employment negotiation
- McDonald Hopkins holds event on exit strategies for company founders

- MH Business Exchange Episode 7 helps businesses manage their IP portfolio
- MH Business Exchange Episode 6 helps employers navigate through legal disputes with employees
- MH Business Exchange Episode 5 informs businesses how to minimize risk when terminating an employee
- MH Business Exchange Episode 4 forecasts the future of the US energy market and its impact on the economy
- MH Business Exchange Episode 3 informs owners, contractors and subcontractors on how to protect their business with a construction contract
- MH Business Exchange now available on Google Play
- MH Business Exchange Episode 2 informs owners how to prepare business for a sale
- McDonald Hopkins launches MH Business Exchange podcast
- Eleven attorneys at McDonald Hopkins honored as Michigan Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Michael Witzke named Chair of Estate Planning and Probate Practice Group at McDonald Hopkins
- Twelve attorneys at McDonald Hopkins honored as Michigan Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

Podcasts

- Episode 37: Is the Stretch IRA gone? A conversation about the impact of the SECURE Act on estate plans
- Episode 36: Cybersecurity trends for 2020
- Non-compete agreements: Understanding the basics
- Episode 33: Back to school cybersecurity tips for parents
- Episode 32: How will the California Consumer Privacy Act impact you?
- Episode 31: Litigation finance field finds exciting new resource in Dispute Financing Library at NYU
- Ruminations and insights on corporate restructuring: The lawyer and the investment banker
- Perspectives on the Chicago law firm market
- Is your business prepared for CFIUS? How FIRRMA pilot program impacts foreign investment in U.S. business
- Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Healthcare Industry
- Episode 24: What to expect at the 2019 Ohio Tax Conference
- Episode 22: Examining the 2018 Florida Recount Through the Lens of a 2000 Recount Veteran
- Episode 21: Securities implications of blockchain technology
- Episode 20: A Quick Tour of the Business Income Deduction
- Episode 18: Trends in long-term care
- Episode 17: The role of fiduciaries – Who, what and when
- Episode 16: Key issues in environmental law: The Clean Water Act, the Clean Power Plan, and more
- Episode 15: Use of representation and warranty insurance in M&A Deals
- Episode 14: Due diligence for employee benefits: The role of HR and others
- Episode 13: Estate planning techniques for high net worth individuals
- Episode 12: Overpayment: Managing medical records requests and avoiding payor audits
- Episode 11: Beware: Avoiding hidden antitrust dangers
- Episode 10: Securities considerations when raising capital
- Episode 09: GDPR is coming - Is your business prepared?
- Episode 08: Executive representation: Understanding executive compensation during employment negotiation

- Episode 07: Managing your intellectual property portfolio in 2018
- Episode 06: Navigating legal disputes with employees
- Episode 05: Terminating an employee while protecting your business
- Episode 04: Forecasting the US energy market
- Episode 03: Protecting yourself and your business with a construction contract
- Episode 02: Preparing your business to be sold
- Episode 01: Federal tax credits' impact on natural disaster recovery

Events

- What changes your estate plan needs post-election | Tuesday, November 17, 2020
- Planning techniques to consider now | Friday, June 5, 2020
- Business Succession Planning in 2020 | Tuesday, May 19, 2020
- Aging parents: What you need to know | Tuesday, November 5, 2019
- Florida Domicile: Call Florida Home and Reduce Your Tax Bills | Tuesday, June 4, 2019
- Trust Planning in a Changing Environment | Tuesday, May 21, 2019
- Planning considerations for business owners under the new tax | Thursday, April 25, 2019
- Out with the old, in with the new: Do your estate and business plans need an update? | Thursday, January 17, 2019
- 2018 NVBDC National Veteran Business Matchmaker | Monday, September 10, 2018
- The founder's exit strategy: From beginning to end | Thursday, February 22, 2018
- Tax Reform Analysis for Nonprofits | Thursday, January 11, 2018
- Tax Reform Analysis: The impact on you and your business | Wednesday, January 10, 2018
- Leaving a legacy | Thursday, October 29, 2015