Darcy K. Houghton, Esq.

 **Employment Background**

Darcy works with Blanchard, Krasner & French and spend much of 2021 working with its HNW clients. Previously, Darcy served as Sr. Vice President/Sr. Wealth Planner with Wells Fargo Private Bank. Through a strong commitment to understanding client goals and the application of in-depth financial analysis, Darcy was able to educate and guide clients with their business succession and estate planning. Darcy was selected to serve on Wells Fargo’s national committee that developed and enhanced estate planning materials for advisors and clients.

Prior to working with Wells Fargo, Darcy practiced at Hawkins, Folsom & Muir Law where Darcy served as Of Counsel and guided clients in estate planning, estate administration, business and asset protection matters. Prior to that, Darcy worked at Whittier Trust as a Vice President, Client Advisor, serving clients with their specific and distinct trust administration needs. Earlier in her career, Darcy served as in-house counsel at Harley-Davidson Financial Services where she managed the Nevada legal department. Darcy began her career as a lawyer working in Chapter 11 bankruptcy matters and prior to attending law school, worked as a Staff Accountant with Brandon & Tibbs, CPAs.

**Bars and Courts**

* Nevada Bar
* US District Court, District of Nevada
* United States Supreme Court

**Education**

* University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, JD
* University of Colorado, BS, Business/Accounting
* National Association of Estate Planning Councils
* Business Exit Institute, Certified Exit Planning Certificate
* Southern California Institute, Laureate in Wealth Strategies
* American Bankers’ Association, University of Oklahoma, Banking Compliance Certificate

**Professional Affiliations**

* American Bar Association
* Washoe County Bar Association
* National Association of Estate Planning Councils
	+ Member of Council Relations Committee and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
* Wealth Counsel Nevada Forum, Founding Board Member
* Estate Planning Council of Northern Nevada, Past President
* Sacramento Estate Planning Council, Past Board Member

**Community Affiliations**

* Reno Rodeo Sponsor’s Committee (2019- present)
* Veteran’s Guest House (2019-present)
* Western Nevada College Board of Directors (2014-present)
* Chamber of Commerce Leadership Graduate (Class of 2010)
* Judicial Selection Committee Carson City, NV (2011)
* Sierra Lutheran High School, Past Board Member
* Friends in Service Helping, Past President & Board Member

**Areas of Practice**

* Estate planning and taxation
* Asset Protection
* Business law and succession planning
* Contracts
* Real estate
* Financial services
* Trust and estate administration

**Representative Transactions**

* Regularly develops complex wealth plans for clients with $20M – $300M in assets, either eliminating or substantially reducing estate taxes and increasing asset protection while focusing on client’s family and business goals.
* Utilizes philanthropy to support clients’ community goals and family continuity while decreasing estate tax exposure.
* Advised multiple clients through business transition by creation, purchase, sale, gift and ESOP transactions.
* Brought client in real estate litigation to satisfactory closure after numerous other professional efforts had been unsuccessful at finding resolution.
* Represented client in trust litigation resulting in $56MM judgment.
* Arbitrated three-week, paper intensive, complex adversary proceeding in bankruptcy matter, resulting in $12 million award

**Publications and Speaking Engagements**

Co-Author: “Incomplete, Non-Grantor Trusts,” presentation materials for national Wells Fargo Wealth Planning Team
Co-Author: “Using a Beneficiary Defective Inheritor’s Trust & Beneficiary-Deemed-Owned Trust,” presentation materials for national Wells Fargo Wealth Planning Team
Presenter: Taxes Past Present and Possible Future, Numerous Digital Events for Wells Fargo Advisors and Clients across the California / NV Region.
Case Study Presenter: Using Split Dollar Life Insurance in a Volatile Market, Wells Fargo National Daily Call
Co-Presenter: Wells Fargo Client Event, Charitable Planning – Digital Event – Reno, NV. (with Governor Brian Sandoval as the new President of UNR, Doug Knuth as Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for UNR, and Raymond Gonzalez, Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo)
Speaker: “Introduction to Income and Estate Taxes,” National Training Event for Wells Fargo Advisors
Speaker: “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,” Wells Fargo FOCUS, Fresno, CA
Speaker: “Supercharge your Giving,” Hilltop Community Church, Minden, NV
Speaker: “What You Need to Know After the Death of a Loved One,” OLLI Course, Reno, NV
Speaker: “Understanding Trusts,” NBI, Carson City, NV
Speaker: “Pet Trusts,” NBI, Carson City, NV
Speaker: “Pet Trusts,” SPCA, Reno, NV
Speaker: “Elements of a Good Estate Plan,” OLLI, Reno, NV
Speaker: “Family Legacy Planning,” Nevada Bar Convention, Kona, HI
Speaker: “The Crossroads of Estate Planning and Financial Planning for College Family Legacy Planning,” EPCNN Monthly Meeting, Carson City, NV
Speaker: “Overview of the 2015 Legislative Changes to the Probate Statutes,” Wealth Counsel Nevada Forum Las Vegas, NV
Speaker: “Attorney Marketing and Co-Counsel Arrangements,” Wealth Counsel Nevada Forum Las Vegas, NV
Speaker: “Overview of Estate Planning Concepts,” Advisor Training, Reno, NV
Speaker: “Choosing the Right Trustee,” Fresno Probate Bar Association, Fresno, CA
Speaker: “Planning for Retirement,” Fundraising Professionals Association, Reno, NV
Author: Monthly newspaper column relating to estate planning issues, circulated to Carson City & rural counties in Northern Nevada
Speaker: “Understanding the new Power of Attorney Statute,” Wealth Counsel Nevada Forum, Las Vegas, NV

**Recognitions**

National Association of Estate Planning Councils, Accredited Estate Planner

Five Year Distinction Award, 2016 by Martindale-Hubbell

Client Distinction Award, 2015 by Martindale-Hubbell

AV Rating in Estate Planning and Business Law by Martindale-Hubbell

Reader’s Choice Best Attorney, Best of Carson City, 2011