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Farhad Aghdami

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Farhad Aghdami is Williams Mullen's Richmond Managing Partner. He focuses his practice on wealth transfer tax planning, business succession planning, income tax planning for individuals and businesses and fiduciary litigation. He counsels a wide variety of clients, including high net worth individuals and families, middle-market business owners, institutional fiduciaries, family offices and charitable entities. Farhad has been listed (Band One) in the Chambers USA *High Net Worth Guide for Private Wealth Law* (2017-present).

Farhad serves on the board of directors of the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, a mutual property and casualty insurance company, and on the board of a privately held, third-generation construction materials business based in Raleigh, N.C.

Farhad is the Virginia state chair and southeast region chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and is a member of its board of regents. He is chair of the ACTEC Fiduciary Income Tax Committee, and a member of the Business Planning Committee and the State Chairs Steering Committee.

He is listed in *The Best Lawyers In America*© and was named the Richmond "Tax Lawyer of the Year" in the 2015 and 2018 editions and the Richmond "Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year" in the 2016 and 2019 editions. In addition, Farhad has been named one of the top 50 lawyers in Richmond and one of the top 100 lawyers in Virginia by *Virginia Super Lawyers* (2012-2015, 2017-present). Farhad previously served as an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law and Washington & Lee's School of Law.

Farhad serves on the board of trustees of the Southern Federal Tax Institute. In addition, Farhad has held leadership positions in a number of professional organizations, including the Virginia Bar Association's Wills, Trusts, and Estates Section (chair, 2011-2013), where he led efforts to enact the Virginia decanting statute, the Virginia self-settled spendthrift trust statute, the Virginia grantor trust tax reimbursement statute and the Virginia directed trust statute. In addition, he served as the chair of the Fiduciary Income Tax Committee of the ABA Tax Section (2003-2005). Farhad chaired the ABA Tax Section's Task Forces that submitted comments on the regulations promulgated in response to the Supreme Court's decision in Estate of Hubert and in response to IRS Notice 2011-101 on trust decanting.

In addition, Farhad has also served leadership roles in a number of other professional organizations, including the Estate Planning Council of Richmond (President, 2011-2012), Insurance Planning Committee of the ABA Real Property, Probate & Trust Section (chair, 2003-2004), Trust Administrators Council of Richmond (president, 2004-2005), University of Richmond Estate Planning Advisory Council (chair, 2004-2009) and Richmond Private Business Study Group (chair, 2001-2002).

Farhad is a co-author of three tax treatises published by Thomson Reuters: *Structuring Buy-Sell Agreements, Tax Planning for Family Wealth Transfers During Life* and *Tax Planning for Family Wealth Transfers at Death*. He has authored numerous articles that have appeared in tax journals, including *The Tax Lawyer* and *The Journal of Taxation*, and he has been quoted in *The New York Times* and *Virginia Business*. Farhad is the planning chair of the Conner-Zaritsky Advanced Estate Planning Institute. In addition, he regularly speaks at advanced planning conferences, including those sponsored by the University of Miami-Heckerling Institute, ACTEC, the Southern Federal Tax Institute, the ABA Tax Section, the ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Section and the American Law Institute.

Farhad is a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation and Venture Richmond, where he serves as its vice-chair. He is a member of The Forum Club and the 2006 Class of Leadership Metro Richmond. Farhad previously served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond, and he previously served on the Boards of the Valentine Museum, St. Christopher's School, the Medical College of Virginia Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Richmond.

Farhad is a 1989 graduate of the University of Virginia and a 1992 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. He received his LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in 1995.

Practice Areas

- Private Client & Fiduciary Services
- Tax Law
- Corporate
- Business Succession Planning
- Fiduciary Litigation
- Tax Controversy

- Wealth Transfer Planning
- Tax-Exempt Practice
- Retirement Planning
- Entity Formation and Strategic Planning

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M.), 1995
- Wake Forest University School of Law (J.D.), 1992
- University of Virginia (B.A.), 1989

Professional Affiliations

- Virginia Bar Association's Wills, Trusts and Estates Section - Former Chair
- Estate Planning Council of Richmond - Past President
- ABA's Tax Section, Fiduciary Income Tax Committee - Past Chair
- ABA Real Property, Probate & Trust Section, Insurance Committee - Past Chair
- University of Richmond Estate Planning Advisory Council - Past Chair
- Trust Administrators Council of Richmond - Past President
- Private Business Study Group - Past Chair
- Task Force on Transfer Tax Reform
- Virginia State Bar's Wills, Trusts and Estates Section - Council Member
- Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia - Board of Directors
- Association for Corporate Growth
- *Structuring Buy-Sell Agreements* (Warren, Gorham & Lamont) - Co-Author
- Richmond Bar Association
- American College of Trust and Estate - Board of Regents, Virginia State Chair and Southeast Region Chair, Fiduciary Income Tax Committee Chair

Awards

- *Chambers High Net Worth Guide* - Private Wealth Law (2017-present)
- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel - Fellow
- *The Best Lawyers in America©* - Tax Law, Trusts and Estates (2006-present)
- *The Best Lawyers in America©* - Richmond Tax Law "Lawyer of the Year" (2018)
- *The Best Lawyers in America©* - Richmond Trusts & Estates Law "Lawyer of the Year" (2015, 2016, 2019)
- *Virginia Business* - "Legal Elite," (2012-present)
- *Virginia Super Lawyers* magazine - Tax Law (2006-present), "Top 100: Virginia" and "Top 50:

Richmond," (2012-2015, 2017-present)

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent? Peer Rating