T. JAMES LEE

Director

Trusts and Estates

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Jim Lee is the chair of our trusts and estates law group where he works in the areas of estate planning, business design and structuring, and commercial transactions, including tax planning, corporate, partnerships, LLCs, real estate, and international matters. Fiercely loyal to his clients, Jim works closely with individuals and families, developing long-term relationships to help ensure continuity from generation to generation. As an estate planning attorney, he utilizes innovative wealth transfer strategies such as grantor trusts (GRATs and QPRTs), commercial business entities, family limited partnerships and LLCs, tax-free installment sales, and other sophisticated tax planning strategies to meet his clients' needs.

Throughout his experience as an estate attorney, Jim has advised clients on planned giving methods as well as establishing charitable remainder and lead trusts, private foundations, public charities, and other tax-exempt organizations. He also advises trustees and executors on their fiduciary responsibilities and tax implications in the administration and distribution of trusts and probate estates.

A testament to his abilities, most of Jim's work comes from referrals and word of mouth as he has developed a reputation for using creative problem solving and strategic insight to achieve planning objectives appropriate for ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families. This client-oriented approach means Jim and his team of estate lawyers design estate and business plans to meet the needs of each family's unique vision. As an example, estate planning and business succession plans can be customized to provide incentives to beneficiaries and successors, such as children and grandchildren, to become productive and contributing members of society.

Jim is fluent in Spanish, and many years ago, while living in a foreign country, he witnessed firsthand the influence attorneys can have helping others with their legal goals and objectives. From law school at Brigham Young University through today, he cherishes his unique position to help people in his role as an estate planning attorney. A father to six children, Jim jokes he is "the roadie" for his kids' mobile DJ business. On many weekends, you may find him playing at schools, weddings and private events. His go-to song? Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love."

EDUCATION

- **J.D.,** with honors, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School
- **B.S.,** Business Management, Brigham Young University
- Top business school graduate in entrepreneurship, business composite minor (Accounting and Economics), and minor in Spanish
- *Brigham Young University Law Review,* Editorial Board, 1995-1996; Member, 1994-1996
- Extern, Honorable J. Kenneth Mangum, Superior Court of Arizona, 1994

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Business and Finance
- Estate Planning
- Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Private Client and Wealth Preservation
- Tax
- Trusts and Estates

AWARDS AND HONORS

- *Best Lawyers in America®,* Lawyer of the Year, Trusts and Estates, 2017, 2021
- *Best Lawyers in America®,* Tax Law, Trusts and Estates, 2010-2021
- *Chambers HNW,* Leading High Net Worth Advisors, 2016-2020
- *Southwest Super Lawyers®,* Estate Planning and Probate, 2008, 2010-2018
- *Arizona's Finest Lawyers,* Regular Member, admitted as of 2011
- AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated (the highest rating available), by Martindale-Hubbell

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Planning for Married Couples," ALI CLE Planning Techniques for Large Estates 2020, April 30, 2020
- Presenter, "Qualified Small Business Stock," AZCLE Entity Selection and Issues for the Estate Planner, sponsored by the State Bar of Arizona, March 19, 2020
- Co-Author, "Arizona Estate Planning: Income, Estate, Gift, and GST Taxation," *DT Publishing Company, Vol. 1 supplement and new Vol. 2*, 2019
- Co-author, "End-of-Year Business Advice for Northern Nevada Businesses," *Northern Nevada Business View*, December 11, 2018
- Speaker, "The New Partnership Audit Rules and Why They Are So Important for Estate Planners," ACTEC Podcast Series, June 2018
- Speaker, "Digital Assets," The Arizona Fiduciaries Association 2018 Spring

Conference, April 20, 2018

- Speaker, "Partnership Audit Rules," Summer Meeting, ACTEC, Chicago, Illinois, 2018
- Speaker, 2017 Women's Financial Forum, Arizona Bank and Trust, 2017
- Speaker, "Hot Topics in Contemporary Estate Planning (including Ron Aucutt)," sponsored by the State Bar of Arizona, 2017
- Speaker and Panelist, various trusts, estates, and tax seminars, National Video Broadcasts, NBI, 2016-present
- Speaker, Moderator, and Seminar Chair, "Probate and Estate Law, and Elder and Mental Health Care Law: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (Practical Estate Planning and Administration; Estate Planning with Corporations, LLCs, and Partnerships; Elder and Special Needs Planning for the Modest and the Affluent; and Digital Assets)," CLE by the Sea, Coronado, California, sponsored by the State Bar of Arizona, July 2016
- Speaker, "Partnership Tax Allocations, and Implications of the Repeal of TEFRA," Business Planning Committee, Summer Meeting, ACTEC, Boston, Massachusetts, 2016
- Speaker, "Section 642(c) Charitable Deduction and Tracing," Fiduciary Income Tax Committee, Annual Meeting, ACTEC, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2016
- Co-Author, "Best Practices for Structuring Trusts and Estates," *Thomson Reuters (Aspatore),* 2016 edition

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of Arizona
- Member, Utah State Bar
- Member, Professional Advisory Board, Arizona Community Foundation
- Volunteer, in affiliation with local chapters of House of Refuge and Habitat for Humanity
- Fellow, The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, ACTEC
- Member, Fiduciary Income Tax Committee, Business Planning Committee, ACTEC
- Member, Past Chair, Estate and Trust Advisory Commission, State Bar of Arizona
- Inaugural Member, TGen Ambassadors, Translational Genomics Research Institute
- Member, Committee on Estate and Gift Taxes, Taxation Section, American Bar Association
- Past Chair, Professional Education Series Planning Committee, Arizona Community Foundation
- Past Officer, Board of Directors, Ballet Arizona

- Past Chair, Executive Council, Probate and Trust Law Section, State Bar of Arizona
- Past Chair of the Planned Giving Committee, Past Executive Committee Member, Arthritis Foundation, Greater Southwest Chapter
- Trustee (retired), Phoenix Boys Choir
- Past Council Officer, Past Executive Board Member, Boy Scouts of America, Grand Canyon Council
- Past Member, Professional Advisory Committee, Jewish Community Foundation
- Past President, Past Board Member, Valley Estate Planners
- Past President, Past Board Member, East Valley Estate Planning Council

ADMISSIONS

- Arizona
- Utah
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona
- Trust and Estate Specialist (Board Certified, State Bar of Arizona)

LANGUAGES

- Spanish, Fluent