Richard Weiland, TEP

Partner

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Tax
Estates & Trusts
General Business Law
Private Company Mergers & Acquisitions
Business Succession
Charities & Not-For-Profits Law
Family Office
Indigenous Business & Economic Development

Profile

Growing up working Saturdays and summers in the small business his father started, Richard experienced firsthand the things that are needed to keep a business going. Early mornings. Hard work. Keeping customers happy.

Today, with a legal practice focused on providing tax, trust and estate advice, Richard still draws on those early lessons, recognizing that he is dealing with people's livelihoods and families. He works with our clients to define their family, business and tax objectives and to put a plan in place to see those intentions carried out.

The clients that Richard works with include:

> Private business owners and their family members
> Professional and lay trustees and executors seeking guidance on administration
> Charities and non-profits

Work Highlights

Services

- Tax-effective corporate reorganizations, including restructuring for business succession purposes
- Tax aspects of corporate and commercial transactions, such as reducing tax liabilities arising on the sale of a business
- Tax aspects of share offerings and real estate financing structures, including flow-through financings in the mining and alternative energy sectors
- Trusts for tax and asset protection purposes, including family trusts, alter ego and joint spousal trusts, disability trusts, immigration trusts, and residence trusts, and advising on trust transactions including restructuring and winding up
- Complex estate planning and administration
- Establishment, registration and operation of not-for-profit and charitable organizations

Tax, trusts and estates laws are complex and constantly changing. Richard works hard to stay abreast of the law as it changes. He enjoys translating the law's shifting complexities into accessible information and practical advice. He strives to use clear and understandable language in his communication and documents, believing that legal jargon, "Olde English" and ancient Greek are almost never helpful to convey meaning in the 21st century.

Richard is a regular speaker on estates, trusts and tax matters, in the media, at professional seminars and private client events. He has also authored and contributed to a number of legal publications used by lawyers across British Columbia.

Credentials

Awards & Distinctions

- Best Lawyers® in Canada, Trusts and Estates, 2019-2026
- Best Lawyers® in Canada, Tax Law, 2022-2026
- Best Lawyers® in Canada, Charities/Non-Profit Law, 2026
- Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory®, Repeatedly Recommended Lawyer, Estate & Personal Tax Planning - Estate & Tax Planning, 2021 - 2025
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) Private Client Awards finalist for Contentious Trusts and Estates Team of the Year 2021

Professional Certifications

- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP)
- Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' In-depth Tax Course

Industry Involvement

- Canadian Bar Association, member, 2002 - Present
- Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia, member, 2002 - Present
- Canadian Tax Foundation
- Estate Planning Council of Vancouver

- Law Society of British Columbia, member, 2002 - Present
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
- University of British Columbia's Allard School of Law, Taxation of Trusts and Estates adjunct professor

Community Commitments

- Vancouver Christian School Association, board member, 2010
- Society of Christian Schools in BC, board member, 2016

Education & Call to Bar

- Call to Bar: British Columbia, 2002
- University of Victoria, Bachelor of Laws, 2001
- Trinity Western University, Bachelor of Arts in Communications, 1997

External Publications & Presentations

- Contributing Author, British Columbia Estate Litigation, 2nd Edition, published by LexisNexis, 2025
- "Trusts 2023", Pacific Business & Legal Institute (June 28, 2023)
- "Privacy And The Implications Of Digital Wills", Estate Planning Conference, Advocis, December 2021
- "Time To Pay The Piper: Strategies For The 21 Year Deemed Disposition", Chartered Professional Accountants of BC and the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners Canada, October 2021
- "Turning the Page: The Future of Virtual Witnessing and Electronic Wills", Estate Planning Council of Vancouver, February 23, 2021
- "Estate Planning During a Pandemic", The Lawyer's Daily (April 16, 2020)
- "What if something happens?' Canadians' interest in wills surges amid COVID-19", ourwindsor.ca (April 15, 2020)
- "What if something happens?' Canadians' interest in wills surges amid COVID-19", Niagara Falls Review (April 15, 2020)
- "Taxnet Pro How to Make Estate Planning Documents From Home", Thomson Reuters (March 31, 2020)
- Private Company Tax Proposal: The Changing Landscape, Canadian Bar Association, Business Law Section Meeting, October 4, 2017
- Discretionary Trusts – Recent Developments, Perspectives and Practical Guidance, Canadian Tax Foundation, BC Tax Conference, 2017
- Building an Enduring Legacy through Estate Planning, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation Autumn Legacy Lunch, October 5, 2016
- Registered Assets at Death: Planning Beyond the Beneficiary Designation, STEP Vancouver, April 14, 2016 Trusts 2016: Using Trusts Effectively, Pacific Business and Law Institute, June 2016
- British Columbia Probate and Estate Administration: Chapter 4 Devolution of Assets on Death and Chapter 7 Probate Fees, CLE Practice Manual, 2007-2016
- British Columbia Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation: Chapter 6 Asset Protection, CLE Practice Manual, 2004-2016
- Passport to Trusts & Estates: Canadian Issues for U.S. Estates, International Lawyers Network Trusts & Estates Specialty Group, February 2015
- Trusts: Planning for Success, Pacific Business & Law Institute, June 2015

- Playing By the Rules 2015: Tax and Compliance Update for Charitable Donation Fundraising. Clark Wilson LLP and Vancouver Foundation, Charities Forum, 2015
- The Basics of Will and Estate Planning, Tax Considerations in Estate Planning, CLE, 2015
- Estate Planning Update, A Trust's Three Tax Challenges That Every Estate Planner Should Understand, CLE, 2014
- Planning for and Administering Digital Assets, presented to Kelowna Estate Planning Council, 2013. Updated and presented to Victoria Estate Planning Council, 2014. Updated and presented to Vernon Estate Planning Council, 2014
- Canadian Tax Issues for U.S. Estates, International Lawyers Network, live and online presentation to TD Bank (Vancouver, Toronto and Boston), 2014
- Maximize Giving Through Effective Tax Planning, The Louis Brier Jewish Aged Foundation, Power of Giving, 2013
- Planning With Multiple Wills Under WESA, presentation to private wealth professionals, 2013
- Reducing Executor Legal Liability, Canadian Bar Association, webinar, 2012
- U.S. Tax Issues for Canadians, presentation to private wealth professionals, 2012
- What's New in Estate Planning, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation Heritage Circle Luncheon, 2010
- WESA and the New Rules: Is Your Practice Ready?, Estate Administration Under WESA, CLE, 2013. Implementing Private Infant Settlement Trusts, Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia Publication: The Verdict, June 2009 Issue 121