LEWIS RICE

Kristen T. Southworth

Member

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Kristen Southworth advises high-net-worth individuals and families on estate planning, wealth transfer strategies, and legacy preservation, with a practice grounded in empathy, discretion, and technical precision.

Kristen is a member in the Firm's Estate Planning and Probate Department. She has extensive experience drafting various estate planning documents including wills, revocable trusts, irrevocable trusts, prenuptial agreements, durable powers of attorney, and medical directives, as well as experience in the preparation of gift and estate tax returns. She counsels clients on estate and wealth planning, estate and trust administration, business succession planning, and she can help her clients implement various wealth transfer techniques including the formation of business entities, installment sales, buy-sell agreements, life insurance trusts, various gifting techniques and more.

The most important and enjoyable part of Kristen's practice is her relationship with her clients. Estate planning is deeply personal, and Kristen takes pride in the trust her clients place in her ability to empathize with their family circumstances while implementing sophisticated business and estate planning strategies. She takes the time to listen, educate, and explain the various options related to personal, tax, and business planning.

Kristen Southworth maintains a discreet, boutique-style practice representing high-net-worth individuals in estate planning, asset protection, and family wealth structuring. In addition to her work with successful entrepreneurs, executives, and multigenerational families, she has developed a niche advising women navigating complex financial lives—whether through marriage, family inheritance, or public partnerships. Kristen is particularly attuned to the needs of clients balancing privacy, public life, and personal legacy.

Kristen serves on the Firm's Recruiting Committee. She also is a member of the Estate Planning Council of St. Louis, the St. Louis Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She is conversational in German.

Education

- Southern Illinois University School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*)
  - Hiram H. and Rosalee Lesar Scholarship

Services

- Trust & Estates
- Trust & Estate Litigation

- The Colorado College (B.A.)
  - Religion, concentration in Eastern Religion and Philosophy

Legal Background

- Law clerk, Illinois Supreme Court, Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier (Fall 2017)
- Summer associate, Lewis Rice LLC (2017)
- Summer associate, Feirich, Meger, Green, Ryan (2016)

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Estate Planning Council of St. Louis
- Member, American Agricultural Law Association
- Probate and Trust Steering Committee, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Graduate, ACTEC Heart of America Institute

Admissions

- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Board Member, Aim High St. Louis

Special Honors

- *Missouri & Kansas Rising Stars*® 2024-2025
- *Best Lawyers*® Ones to Watch 2026

Firm Committees

- Recruiting Committee

Q&A: Private Planning for Public Figures

Kristen Southworth’s practice is built around thoughtful, discreet counsel for individuals managing complex financial lives—often in the public eye. Whether advising on legacy planning, asset protection, or navigating the intersection of privacy and visibility, Kristen brings clarity and care to every conversation. Below, she shares insights into her approach and the clients she serves.

What types of clients do you typically work with?

I work with high-net-worth individuals, including entrepreneurs, executives, athletes and multigenerational families. I also advise women navigating complex financial lives shaped by marriage, inheritance, or public partnerships.

Can you expand on your work with women, especially high-profile

women?

I help women manage the intersection of personal legacy, financial independence, and public visibility. This often involves structuring assets and planning with discretion, while supporting long-term goals and family priorities.

What makes your approach to estate planning unique?

I take a personalized approach that balances legal strategy with the client's desire for privacy, legacy, and long-term family stability. My goal is to empower my clients by educating them on complex matters and ultimately help them create structures that reflect both financial and personal priorities.

How do you help clients manage public and private interests?

I help clients structure their affairs in ways that protect their privacy while supporting public-facing roles or philanthropic goals. This often involves thoughtful planning around asset protection, governance, and communication.

Publications

April 27, 2020
Remote Document Execution and Other Tax Matters Related to the Coronavirus Crisis

June 12, 2020
Remote Notarization in Missouri and Illinois During the COVID-19 Pandemic