Jennifer M. Pagnillo

Partner

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Overview

Jennifer Pagnillo helps families and individuals in Connecticut and New York with tax and estate planning and estate and trust administration with an emphasis on charitable giving and the creation and operation of nonprofit organizations, including family foundations.

She advises clients on:

- Income, estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax planning
- Estate planning, including the preparation of wills and trusts
- Closely-held business planning and related issues to preserve and transmit wealth within families
- Administration of trusts and estates, including probate proceedings, accountings and tax-related disputes

Jennifer has represented nonprofit organizations from inception through attainment of tax-exempt status and has facilitated the development of charitable fund-raising programs. She was one of the New York City attorneys who volunteered in the citywide *pro bono* effort to aid families of the victims of the World Trade center attack.

Firm Leadership:

- Co-Leader, Tax-Exempt Organizations and Charitable Giving Practice

Practices & Industries

Academic Institutions & Higher Education

Family Office

Private Client

Tax Exempt Organizations & Charitable Giving

Trust & Estates

Trust Services and Fiduciary Compliance

Education and Credentials

Education

St. John's University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, *St. John's Law Review*, Articles and Notes Editor

St. Thomas Aquinas College, B.A., *magna cum laude*

Admissions

State of Connecticut

State of New York

Affiliations

Estate Planning Council of Lower Fairfield County, President

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. See Awards Methodology.

Recognitions

Chosen for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), Trusts and Estates, 2023-2027, Nonprofit/Charities Law, 2023-2027

Named to Top Lawyers in Fairfield County 2025 - Attorneys for Nonprofits, 2025

Recognized as an Empire State Counsel by the New York State Bar Association for pro bono commitment, 2014

Community Involvement

Putnam County SPCA, Board Member

Estate Planning Council of Lower Fairfield County, Former President

Save the Children (Fairfield, CT), Professional Advisors Council, Former Member

Fairfield County's Community Foundation (Norwalk, CT), Former Chair, Professional Advisors Council; Former Co-Chair, Development Committee; Former Member, Board of Directors

Insights

Philanthropy and Tax Strategy Update: OBBBA's New Charitable Contribution Rules – An Incentive to Give This Year
Day Pitney Estate Planning Update, November 24, 2025

Generations Winter 2023 - The Philanthropist as Community Stakeholder: The Rise of 501(c)(4) Organizations
March 10, 2023

Generations Winter 2022 - Doing Good by Doing More: Looking Beyond Traditional Philanthropy
March 15, 2022

"Doing Good By Doing More: Looking Beyond Traditional Philanthropy," Palm Beach Family Office Forum Series
November 15, 2021

Generations Fall 2020 - Estate Tax Policy Outlook: Potential Tax Policy Impact of the 2020 Election
October 29, 2020

Opinion: Planning during the pandemic? Get a will.
August 31, 2020

COVID-19 Order: Connecticut Nonstock Corporations May Now Hold Remote Membership Meetings
May 14, 2020

Anticipating Case and Claim Deadlines in the Age of COVID-19
April 14, 2020

An Evening of Hope: Maximizing Philanthropic Outreach
November 1, 2018

Disaster Relief: Guidance for Donors and Charities
july/august 2018

Best Practices for Charitable Gifts to Individuals
October 5, 2016

Donor-Advised Funds: Is Additional Regulation Required?
September 21, 2016

Maximize the Impact of Your Annual Giving With a Charitable Lead Trust
July 26, 2016

Private Museums Under Scrutiny
February 11, 2016

Handling Change: 5 Steps to Manage Transitions in Leadership
February 8, 2016

Changes Loom For Private Foundations Making Foreign Grants
November 10, 2015

New Regulations Make Important Changes for Private Foundations That Make Grants to Foreign Charities - an Affidavit Alone Won't Do It
October 7, 2015

Connecticut Adopts Benefit Corporation Act; Businesses May Operate for Public Benefit
June 26, 2014

News

Top Lawyers in Fairfield County - 2025
November 19, 2025

Jennifer Pagnillo Elected to Fairfield County Community Foundation Board
August 1, 2016

Jennifer Pagnillo Elected to Board of Estate Planning Council of Lower Fairfield County
May 13, 2016

In The Media

Maximizing Philanthropic Impact Through Planned Giving
August 22, 2018

Cos Cob's Amphitheater to Get a New Home
Greenwich Sentinel, February 2, 2017

Charitable Lead Trusts: Making the most of this philanthropic strategy
October 6, 2016

At nonprofits in southwestern Connecticut, a small army of directors on the move
The Stamford Advocate, September 18, 2016

The Time is Right to Consider Charitable Lead Trusts
May 13, 2016

2016 Family Office Association Spring Global Summit
April 26, 2016

Maximizing Philanthropic Impact Through Planned Giving
March 17, 2016

Maximizing Philanthropic Impact Through Planned Giving
June 22, 2016

Should you 'like' Facebook founder's philanthropy?
Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, January 4, 2016

Corporate FunRun Fairfield County 5K is July 30
The Greenwich Post, Fairfield-Sun, July 17, 2015

Day Pitney Mentioned in Empire State Counsel 2014 Honorees
New York State Bar Association, April 1, 2015

Jennifer Pagnillo Contributes Charitable Giving Chapter to CT Estate Planning Book
MCLE New England, May 1, 2013