



# Emma K. Pletenycky

## Associate

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## Overview

Emma K. Pletenycky advises high net worth individuals and families in all aspects of trusts and estates matters. Her practice includes the preparation of wills and trusts, drafting Surrogate's Court documents, representing individual and corporate fiduciaries in contested proceedings and advising clients on estate and trust administrations.

Prior to entering private practice, Emma served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rita Mella, Surrogate of New York County, where she drafted decisions and conferred on complex and novel issues before the court in contested probate, miscellaneous and administration proceedings. This experience gave her valuable insight into Surrogate's Court practice, which she draws upon when advocating for her clients. Emma also served as Administrator of the Civil Appeals Mediation Program at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Emma was a 2018 recipient of the New York Bar Foundation's Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowship and served as a fellow in the chambers of the Honorable Peter J. Kelly, Surrogate of Queens County.

In addition to her practice, Emma serves as a panel member and pro bono attorney for the Planning and Estate Law Project of the City Bar Justice Center, where she provides estate planning services to New York City individuals in need. In recognition of her dedication and commitment to the project, Emma was honored as a 2024 recipient of the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award from the City Bar Justice Center.

*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.](#)*

## Education and Credentials

### Education

New York Law School, J.D., 2019

St. John's University, B.A., 2014

### Admissions

State of New York

## Practices & Industries

**Fiduciary and Probate Litigation**

**Private Client**

**Trust & Estates**

## Affiliations

New York State Bar Association, Trusts and Estates Mediation Committee, Vice-Chair, 2024-present

New York City Bar Justice Center Planning and Estates Law Project (PELP), Attorney Panel Member

City Bar Justice Center's Pro Bono Leadership Council, Member, 2025-2026

## Recognition and Community

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## Recognitions

Recipient of 2025 New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Law Section Rising Star Fellowship, 2025

Recipient of Pro Bono Award from the City Bar Justice Center, 2024

Recipient of Professor Joseph T. Arenson Award for Excellence in Wills and Decedent's Estates, New York Law School, 2019

Recipient of Alexander D. Forger Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession, New York Law School, 2019

## Insights

Why Mediate in Surrogate's Court? Practical Benefits and Real Examples

New York State Bar Association , October 29, 2025

Proving an Inter Vivos Gift in New York: Lessons from 'Matter of Ingberman'

New York Law Journal, October 14, 2025

Highlights of Mediation Programs in the New York Surrogate's Courts

December 13, 2024

Class Gifts and NY's 'Adoption Out' Statute: Guidance for NY Fiduciaries on Minimizing Litigation Risks

New York Law Journal, December 13, 2024

## News

Emma Pletenycky Honored as 2025 Rising Star Fellow at NYSBA Trusts and Estates Section Spring Meeting

May 13, 2025

Emma K. Pletenycky Receives 2025 New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Law Section Rising Star Fellowship

Day Pitney Press Release, January 16, 2025

Emma K. Pletenycky Receives Pro Bono Award from the City Bar Justice Center

September 23, 2024

## In The Media

"Modern Family Feuds: Insights from the Surrogates," New York State Bar Association – Trusts and Estates Law Section  
September 27, 2025

New York Private Client Department Attorneys Michael S. Schwartz and Emma Pletenycky speak at Estate Planners Day on  
May 22 with Estate Planning Council of New York City  
May 22, 2024

"Trusts and Estates Law Section 2023 Fall Meeting," NYSBA  
September 29, 2023

"20th Annual Tax Lawyering Workshop," New York Law School  
April 21, 2023