



Emily J. Kembell

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Areas of Practice

- Estate Planning
- Probate and Trust Administration
- Tax Planning
- Business Planning and Succession
- Real Estate

Education

- New York University School of Law
LL.M., Taxation, 2006
J.D., 2003
- Texas A&M University
B.S., Agricultural Development,
summa cum laude

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Missouri
- Arkansas

Experience

Emily focuses her practice on estate planning of all types, trust and probate administration, transfer tax planning, issues relating to business succession planning, and adult and minor guardianships. Emily is a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Prior to joining KWM, Ms. Kembell served as Chief Regional Administrative Officer and Trust Counsel in the Springfield office of a regional bank's trust department. Prior to taking that position, Emily was a shareholder in a local Springfield firm, where she practiced in the estates and trusts practice area for several years. Ms. Kembell began her legal career in New York City with the law firms of Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher, LLP and McLaughlin & Stern, LLP. She came home to Springfield in 2007.

A Springfield native, Ms. Kembell received her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A & M University where she graduated *summa cum laude*. She received both her Juris Doctor degree and L.L.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

Ms. Kembell is extremely active in the Springfield community, as she previously served as the Board President of Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and is currently serving as a board member of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks where she helped launch a "next gen" giving circle, known as the Generosity Collective. She has previously served on several other local charitable boards. She was a prior Co-Chair of the Planning Committee of the Missouri Bar's Annual Estate, Trust & Elder Law Institute, a current member of Greene County Estate Planning Council (GCEPC), and a frequent speaker at several Missouri and Arkansas Bar Associations' CLE Courses.

Distinctions

- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)
- Ranked for Private Wealth Law by *Chambers*, 2023-2025
- Awarded the "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers* for Trusts and Estates in Springfield, 2022, 2025
- Springfield's 40 Under 40, 2011
- Leadership Springfield, Class XXV
- Missouri Lawyers' Weekly - Women's Justice Award recipient 2017

- Recognized by *Best Lawyers* from 2021-2026 in the following fields:
 - Trusts and Estates
 - Litigation – Trusts and Estates
 - Tax Law
- Selected for inclusion in Missouri & Kansas *Super Lawyers*, 2021-2025

Affiliations

- The Missouri Bar
 - Past Co-Chair, Estate Trust and Elder Law Institute
- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
 - Member, Asset Protection Committee
 - Member, Business Planning Committee
- Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association
- Greene County Estate Planning Council

Publications & Presentations

"The Practical, Ethical, and Technical Aspects of Gift Tax Return Preparation"
Connecticut Bar Association, 2025

"Planning to Report: The Practical, Ethical, and Technical Aspects of Gift Tax Return Preparation" ACTEC, Summer 2025 Meeting Standalone CLE Program

"Corporate Transparency Act," ACTEC / ALI CLE Webinar, 2024

"State Fiduciary Income Tax Matters," 2024 ACTEC Heart of America Fellows Institute and the 2021 ACTEC Heart of America Regional Meeting

"Estate Planning in the New Year," Simply Tax Podcast, 2019

"Practice Makes Perfect: Case Studies of Modifying Trusts to Reach Perfection,"
2021 ACTEC Heart of America Regional Meeting

"Please Cobble Comfortable Shoes," 2018 ACTEC Heart of America Regional Meeting

"[Designating Beneficiaries for Retirement Plan](#)," Trusts & Estates Magazine, July 2017

Co-author of the Missouri Bar Guidebook: "Drafting the Basic Will & Trust", 3d. ed

Presenter at the Missouri Bar Estate, Trust & Elder Law Institute (multiple years)