Richard L. Kay

Counsel

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Richard Kay is a member of Pryor Cashman's Private Client Group and Trusts + Estates practice.

Richard’s practice encompasses all aspects of financial and estate planning, trust and estate administration, and litigation related to will contests and disputed accounting proceedings. He represents a client base that includes high-net-worth individuals and their families, corporate executives, and estates and individuals with significant literary and other assets.

Richard has a thoughtful and detailed approach to estate planning. By monitoring the ever-changing estate and gift tax laws and rules and knowing how they apply to each unique situation, he efficiently manages complex estate and property rights matters. He helps clients preserve and transfer wealth, provide for loved ones with special needs, limit their tax liabilities and support favorite charitable or cultural organizations.

Respected for his knowledge and skill in protecting the interests and rights of minors and mentally incompetent individuals, Richard has received numerous guardian ad litem (GAL) appointments by the Surrogate’s Court and Supreme Court in New York County.

Fostering Family Harmony + Community Engagement

Committed to helping his clients avoid litigation and conflict, Richard offers legal counsel that brings all interested parties together in a collegial manner. He is dedicated to preserving family rapport and seeking solutions that result in long-term accord.

Richard’s relationship-building approach carries over to his work in the community. In addition to interacting with many charitable organizations on behalf of his clients, Richard provides pro bono trusts and estates counsel to nonprofits throughout New York City and serves as pro bono trustee to several UJA-Federation of New York trusts.

Services

- Private Client
- Trusts + Estates
- Tax

Education

- University of Michigan Law School (J.D., 1961)

- Cornell University (B.A., 1958)

Recognition

- Named by *Best Lawyers in America* as a leading attorney in Trusts and Estates law (2010-26)
- Named to the *Super Lawyers – New York Metro* list in Estate Planning + Probate (2008-20, 2024)

Community

- Chair, Legal and Tax Panel, UJA–Federation of New York; former member, Board of Directors
- Member, Cornell University Council
- Member, Planned Giving Professional Advisory Council, Weill Cornell Medical College

Admissions

- New York, 1962
- United States Tax Court

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association, chair, Special Committee on Elder Fraud and Abuse; member, Trusts and Estates Section