



## PRACTICES

Trust and Estate Planning and  
Administration  
Private Client  
Family Office and Trust Companies

## EDUCATION

University of Colorado Law School, J.D.,  
2011  
*Journal on Telecommunications and High  
Technology Law*, Student Note Editor  
Black Law Students Association, Vice  
President  
  
University of Colorado, Leeds School of  
Business, 2007  
Diverse Scholar, 2003-2007

## BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

# Desta Asfaw

Partner

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**Desta Asfaw develops sophisticated estate, wealth transfer, and wealth preservation planning solutions for high net worth individuals, families, and closely-held businesses.**

Desta specializes in complex asset structures involving a variety of wealth transfer, charitable, and business succession planning strategies. She enjoys providing her clients with strategic tax planning advice while also addressing personal goals and promoting family harmony through multiple generations.

Desta typically represents business owners, executives, other high net worth individuals, trusts, closely-held businesses, foundations, and corporate fiduciaries.

## EXPERIENCE

### Wealth Transfer Planning and Estate Planning

Desta develops estate planning solutions for her clients, including:

- Gift, estate, and generation-skipping transfer tax planning
- Irrevocable trusts, including intentionally defective irrevocable trusts (IDITs), grantor retained annuity trusts (GRATs), qualified personal residence trusts (QPRTs), and irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILITs)
- Values-based trusts
- Marital property planning
- Wills and revocable trusts
- Powers of attorney and living wills
- Asset titling and customized beneficiary designations
- Planning for minors
- Business succession planning
- Estate and trust administration
- Limited liability companies and family partnerships

### Wealth Management

Desta assists clients with their wealth management planning, including:

- Legal and tax services

- Legal aspects of investment services
- Full integration of wealth transfer plans with other advisors
- Information flow across multiple family entities

## PUBLICATIONS

"Personal and Family Lending: New Federal and Colorado Regulations," *Holland & Hart Fiduciary Law Blog*, 04/27/2016

"Letters of Wishes: Helpful or Hurtful?," *Holland & Hart Fiduciary Law Blog*, Co-Author, 02/16/2014

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Don't You Forget About Me: Planning Options Afforded by Section 2503," *American Bar Association, Estate & Gift Taxes and Fiduciary Income Tax Young Lawyers Subcommittee*, 09/20/2013

## RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Trusts and Estates, 2024, 2025; Tax Law, 2025
- *Chambers High Net Worth (HNW) Guide*: Private Wealth Law - Colorado, 2021-2025
- Colorado Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Estate & Probate, 2017-2021
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*™, Trusts and Estates, 2021-2023
- *5280 Magazine* Top Lawyers, Estate Planning, 2021-2024
- Denver Bar Association, Richard Marden Davis Award, 2024

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, Member
- Colorado Bar Association, Member
- Sam Cary Bar Association, Member
- Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Council, Member
- The Denver Foundation Professional Advisors Council
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver, Board of Directors
- Holland & Hart Recruiting Committee, Member
- University of Colorado Law School, Law Alumni Board
- The Denver Foundation Black Resilience in Colorado Fund Advisory Committee, Member
- Denver Zoo, Board of Governors