

Joseph M. Higgins

Partner

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Joseph (Joe) Higgins is a business lawyer and partner with Foley & Lardner LLP in its Estate Planning Practice.

Joe focuses his practice primarily on estate planning and administration, representing owners of closely held businesses, private equity fund principals, and other ultra-high net worth individuals and their families across the country in connection with tax-efficient wealth transfers, charitable giving, and business succession planning. Joe has extensive experience using sophisticated estate planning strategies and structures for these purposes.

Awards and Recognition

- Recognized, *Chambers High Net Worth Legal Guide*, Private Wealth Law (Wisconsin) (2025)

Affiliations

- President, Madison Estate Planning Council
- Member, Wisconsin State Bar, Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section (RPPT)
- Member, Leadership Greater Madison
- Member, Madison Estate Planning Council
- Member, Wisconsin Association of Charitable Gift Planners
- Former member, The Young Professional Advisory Committee for The Chicago Community Trust
- Former member, New Practitioners Committee for *Trusts & Estates Magazine*

Presentations and Publications

- Presenter, "Business Succession Planning and Philanthropy," Wisconsin Association of Charitable Gift Planners (2022)
- Presenter, "42nd Annual Estate Planning Update 2021: Recent Developments in Estate Planning," State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE

- Presenter, “41st Annual Estate Planning Update 2020: Recent Developments in Estate Planning,” State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE
- Presenter, “Tax Fundamentals for Estate Planning Attorneys, Course,” National Business Institute (2020)
- Presenter, “Step-Up Basis in Trusts, Estates & LLCs, Course,” National Business Institute (2020)
- Presenter, “Greater North Shore Estate and Financial Planning Council” (2018)
- Presenter, “Notre Dame Tax & Estate Planning Institute” (2017)
- Author, “BDIT 2701: Avoiding Section 2701 by Selling Carried Interest Directly to Beneficiary Defective Inheritor’s Trust,” *Estate Planning Magazine*
- Author, “Transfer Tax Playbook,” *Trusts & Estates Magazine*
- Author, “Tricky GST Issues,” *Bloomberg BNA*
- Contributor, “Year in Review” and “E-Newsletter” *Trust & Estates Magazine*
- Contributor, “The Complete Estate Planning Sourcebook,” *Wolters Kluwer*
- Author, “Monthly Tax Law Update,” *Hennepin County Bar Association*

Sectors

- [Family Offices](#)

Practice Areas

- [Corporate](#)
- [Estate Planning](#)

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D.)
- Carthage College (B.A.)
 - Accounting

Admissions

- Florida
- Illinois
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin