



Denise D. Nordheimer

Partner

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Denise translates long-term tax planning and trust and estate administration strategies into effective legal solutions.

She approaches every client with sensitivity, compassion and discretion, tailoring her advice to meet the needs of high-net-worth individuals and their families.

Denise helps establish and amend trusts and guardianships, advising guardians, executors of probate estates and trustees of revocable living trusts and irrevocable trusts on administration issues. In addition, she helps clients resolve estate and trust disputes, including through litigation if necessary.

She also assists clients in the preparation of complete estate plans to suit their goals including trusts, wills, powers of attorney and advanced health care directives. Denise's process is holistic, taking into account each client's needs and ensuring that their estate plan addresses their priorities.

In 2015, Denise was given a rare Letter of Commendation by the New Castle County Register of Wills for closing an estate that was open for more than 14 years, securing bequests for 28 charitable organizations.

Services

- Taxation & Wealth Planning
- Trust & Estate Law & Administration

Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox Rothschild, Denise founded and operated her own law firm. Before that, she was an associate at a small boutique estate planning law firm and clerked in the Delaware Superior Court for the Honorable Richard S. Gebelein.

While in law school, Denise worked as the Chief Deputy Register of Wills for New Castle County.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Denise has served as an adjunct faculty member at Wilmington University where she taught courses on estate planning and probate to students in the Paralegal Certification Program and business law to accounting and finance majors.

Bar Admissions

- Delaware
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Delaware

Education

- Widener University School of Law (J.D.)
- New York University, Tisch School of the Arts (B.A., B.F.A.)

Memberships

- Delaware Chancery Court
 - Co-Chair of the Guardianship Trusts and Estates Subcommittee
- Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA)
 - Executive Committee
 - Professional Guidance Committee
 - Estate and Trusts; Elder Law; Alternate Dispute Resolution; and Family Law Sections
 - Former Chair of the Small Firms and Solos Section
- American Bar Association
- Pennsylvania State Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- St. Thomas More Society
- Business Networking Breakfast of Wilmington
- Wilmington Trail Club
- The Wodehouse Society

Board of Directors

- Delaware Bar Foundation (Past President and Board Member)
- The Grand Opera House, Wilmington, Delaware (Past Trustee)
- Delaware Board of Bar Examiners (Full Member)
- The Delaware Institute (Full Member)

Honors & Awards

- Selected to the "Delaware's Top Lawyers" list for Estate, Probate +Trusts by *Delaware Today* (2019-2025)
This award is conferred by Delaware Today. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- Delaware State Bar Association's Access to Justice Award

Publications

September 2025

Danger, Will Robinson, Creditors Approaching! CRTs, QPRTs, and Creditor Claims
Estate Planning Journal (WG&L)

Mediation Services

Trusts and estates disputes can be contentious. Whether litigation is already on the table or you're trying to avoid a lawsuit, Denise is here to help. Her mediation support will help you preserve relationships while addressing legal and financial concerns.

With a focus on elder law mediation, Denise uses her background in taxation and wealth planning to resolve complicated and personal disputes among family members. She facilitates open communication that helps families reach mutually beneficial resolutions for issues involving:

- Estate planning
- Guardianship
- Long-term care planning
- Medical directives

Denise is also a skilled mediator in areas outside of Elder Law, including:

- Guardianship for adult children
- Wills
- Estates
- Trusts
- Disagreements between coexecutors

She aims to end every mediation with a personalized solution for the dispute, and for both sides to leave with a written agreement. Denise's mediations often prevent a costly litigation or end a legal dispute without setting foot in a courtroom.

Estate Plan Essentials

It's important to think forward to anticipate problems that may arise throughout the estate planning process so that you can plan accordingly. In this video series, Denise Nordheimer and [Beth Miller](#) draw on their experience to discuss what can go wrong so you can make informed decisions about how to handle your affairs.

Episode 1: I Want to Add My Child to the Deed to My House

Episode 2: My Spouse Died Without a Will

Episode 3: I Named All of My Children as Executors

Episode 4: I Don't Have a Power of Attorney

Episode 5: My Child Has a Bad Spouse

Episode 6: My Beneficiary Forms are Incomplete or Outdated

Episode 7: My Beneficiaries are Disabled

Episode 8: My Will Is So Secure No One Can Find It