

Treating Your Family Like Family

Minority-owned trusts and estates law firm provides sophisticated estate planning and administration for a reasonable price.



(l-r) Kara Rademacher, Cassandra Landrum (back), Lori Anne Douglass (front), Kerry D. Archer

According to Lori Anne Douglass and Kara Rademacher, founding partners of Douglass Rademacher LLP, everyone needs an estate plan regardless of the size of their estate.

"There is a misconception that estate planning is only for the wealthy," says Ms. Douglass. "But everyone—from billionaires to families with modest assets—shares the same fundamental needs when it comes to estate planning." The women explain that it's best to consult with an estate planning attorney who understands the practical effect of the documents.

It's this understanding that gives Douglass Rademacher LLP an edge over other firms. "Not all estate planners do estate administration, and vice versa," explains Ms. Rademacher. "Because our

attorneys do both, we can offer our clients the highest value in legal services—customized estate planning documents designed to avoid complications when the estate is administered." In addition to last wills and testaments, Douglass Rademacher LLP's attorneys draft trusts, medical and financial directives, and corporate documents, and prepare federal gift tax returns and federal and state estate tax returns.

Expert Legal Services at a Reasonable Cost

Ms. Douglass and Ms. Rademacher pride themselves on their high-quality experience, which they gained, in part, through practicing at "Big Law" New York firms catering to the ultra-wealthy. Ultimately, they decided to leave it behind to work with a broader range of clients, bringing to underserved populations a level of legal service typically available only to the top 1 percent. Thanks to intentionally lower

overhead costs, the attorneys maintain affordable rates for their clients. "Even though estate planning is not just for the wealthy, quality estate planning services are often expensive and out of reach for many people," Ms. Rademacher explains. "We firmly believe that everyone should be able to afford the highest quality estate planning," Ms. Douglass adds.

Douglass Rademacher LLP serves a wide array of clients and has developed a niche clientele of women and people of color—clientele traditionally underserved by Big Law. "The similarities we share with clients can be comforting because it implies cultural understanding," Ms. Douglass explains. "But what really attracts clients to our firm is the practical, personalized approach we use in developing solutions to issues they may not even realize exist."

For example, she elaborates, many parents intend to treat their children equally in their estate plan, but equal doesn't always mean fair. Teasing out this nuance promotes generational wealth, which can be decisive in the advancement of younger generations. "Sometimes generational wealth is diminished or lost altogether because of short-sighted estate planning," Ms. Douglass explains.

Administration and Litigation

Emotions run high following the death of a loved one, and it's not uncommon for conflicts to arise in the administration of an estate plan. Douglass Rademacher LLP's attorneys are experienced in all manner of proceedings regarding the administration of trusts and estates.

Ms. Rademacher states, "We are fierce advocates for our clients—whether our client is the executor of an estate, a trustee of a trust, a beneficiary, or another interested party. Sometimes it's in our client's best interest to settle the matter; sometimes it's best to take the matter to trial. Regardless of the road we take, we are guided by the singular goal of achieving the best outcome possible for our clients."

