Kelly M. Burnell

Member

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Ms. Burnell serves as a trusted advisor to high net worth individuals and families and assists them with managing many aspects of their personal and financial affairs. She advises clients on estate planning, trust and estate administration, wealth transfer and tax planning matters, and the formation and administration of private foundations.

Ms. Burnell closely counsels business owner clients on entity formation and restructuring, as well as buy-sell agreements and succession planning. She frequently advises business owners on reorganizing their ownership and entity structures to maintain and centralize control, generate tax savings, and incorporate privacy and liability protection. She has assisted several family businesses with recapitalizing corporate stock into voting and non-voting shares for wealth transfer, tax and succession planning purposes. Kelly has also advised clients on the separation of their business assets and operations through the formation and structuring of holding companies and subsidiaries to generate more effective income tax planning and minimize liability exposure and risk.

Ms. Burnell has a particular expertise representing high net worth clients and business owners with the purchase and sale of personal residences, investment properties and commercial real estate. She manages several real estate transactions each year, effectively negotiating purchase and sale contracts, resolving inspection, title and survey issues, and handling closing matters.

She is the co-chair of Bodman's High Net Worth Practice Group.

Ms. Burnell also assists clients with a variety of economic development projects and advises them on property tax abatements,

practices & industries

High Net Worth

Tax

education

Michigan State University College of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*

University of Michigan, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, B.B.A.

admissions

Michigan

tax credits, financial grants and other incentives. She has successfully represented corporate clients seeking to identify and obtain all available government incentives to locate or expand facilities in Michigan.

Prior to joining Bodman, Ms. Burnell was an attorney at a global accounting firm focusing her efforts on negotiating and securing tax and financial incentives for corporate clients generating capital investments and creating new jobs in Michigan, advising on tax issues associated with mergers and acquisitions, and advising on state and local tax planning matters. While at Michigan State University College of Law, she served as a teaching assistant for Basic Income Taxation A and B, as a law clerk for the State of Michigan Tax Tribunal, and as Managing Editor of Outside Submissions for the Journal of Business & Securities Law. She was recipient of the Jurisprudence Award in Estate and Gift Taxation.

Ms. Burnell grew up in a small town in Northern Michigan and currently resides in Plymouth with her husband and three children.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

- *Crain's Detroit Business* "Notable Women in Law" 2024
- *Chambers HNW 2021-2025*, Private Wealth Law
- *DBusiness* Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2020-2026, Trusts and Estates

CIVIC, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- CATCH, Member, Board of Trustees

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Business Law Section
  - Probate & Estate Planning Section
  - Taxation Section
- Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Network of Professional Advisors
- Financial and Estate Planning Council of Metropolitan Detroit
- Michigan Women's Tax Association
- Washtenaw Estate Planning Council

PUBLICATIONS

- Quoted in "Ready to Retire? Consider Your Options Before Exiting Your Company," Crain's Detroit Business, April 18, 2024 (sub. req.)
- Quoted in "A Tough Split: How Family Businesses Can Protect Themselves in Divorce," *Crain's Detroit Business*, May 2, 2022 (sub.

req.)

- "Other Voices: Tax Credits Can Help Revive Communities," *Crain's Detroit Business*, October 9, 2011 (sub. req.)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Business Transition Webinar with Comerica Bank," Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, September 24, 2024
- “Estate Planning Tax Considerations for 2015,” Speaker, Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), February 19, 2015, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- “2014 Annual Accounting & Regulatory Update: Estate Planning and Property Transfer Update," Presenter, UHY LLP, December 4, 2014, Troy, Michigan
- “Directed Trusts and Divided Trusteeship: Origin Evolution and Implications,” Speaker, Midwest Trust and Wealth Management Conference/Michigan Bankers Association, October 7, 2014, Plymouth, Michigan
- “2013 Annual Accounting & Regulatory Update: Estate Tax Planning & Succession Transfers,” Co-presenter, UHY LLP, December 4, 2013, Troy, Michigan