

William S. Bernstein

Partner

Get in touch

✉ wbernstein@grllp.com

🌐 <https://grllp.com/wbernstein>

📞 416.865.6675 📠 416.865.6636



Executive summary

Bill's practice spans a broad range of tax, estate planning, and business law matters. He holds a master's degree in taxation law and is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). With many years of experience advising entrepreneurial business owners, Bill is valued for providing practical, thoughtful advice to clients and their accounting advisors.

Bill regularly advises clients on the start-up, growth, and reorganization of their businesses, applying tax-efficient strategies to support long-term success. He is also frequently consulted by other lawyers and accountants when transactions require specialized tax insight, where his careful planning and attention to detail are particularly valuable in complex matters.

In addition, Bill assists clients with comprehensive estate planning, often coordinating family trusts, succession planning for family businesses, and the preparation of wills and powers of attorney. This includes planning to minimize estate administration tax and post-mortem tax planning to avoid and minimize family law exposure by use of family trusts and often includes family Shareholders' Agreements.

Bill has lectured and written for the Ontario Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Ontario Bar Association and has served as an instructor for the Ontario Bar Admission Course in the areas of taxation and estate planning. He has also been a member of the Executive of the Tax Section of the Ontario Bar Association.

Outside of his practice, Bill enjoys downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, hiking, cycling, and running. He and his wife enjoy travelling and value spending time with their two adult children, who live in Toronto.

EDUCATION

Osgoode Hall Law School, LLM (Taxation), 1986
University of Toronto, LLB, 1979

BAR ADMISSION

Ontario, 1981

Expertise

Tax

Corporate Reorganizations

Gardiner Roberts

Bay Adelaide Centre — East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West, Suite 3600
Toronto, ON M5H 4E3

Phone: 416.865.6600
Fax: 416.865.6636
contactGR@grllp.com

Planning with Family Trusts
Corporate & Commercial

Representative work

- Planning in connection with a number of situations where a Family Trust was approaching the deemed disposition for income tax purposes arising on the 21st anniversary of its settlement
- Dealing with Canada Revenue Agency in various situations of a Family Trust being audited or reassessed
- Preparing Shareholders' Agreements for family-owned corporations
- Dealing with tax and estate planning issues for U.S. citizens resident in Canada
- Preparing marriage contracts to protect interests in family-owned corporations and trusts

Insights

Publications

Update: Planning For Trusts Faced With The 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule - 17 May 2018

Private Company Income Splitting - 14 September 2017

Update on Recent Corporate Tax Changes and Planning Opportunities - 3 March 2016

Planning For Trusts Faced with the 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule - 12 December 2014

Tax Advantages of Physician Professional Corporations - 24 May 2007

Presentations

Effectively Dealing with the 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule for Trusts, GTA Accountant Network and GTA Finance Network – 23 January 2019

Blogs

Gardiner Roberts

Bay Adelaide Centre — East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West, Suite 3600
Toronto, ON M5H 4E3

Phone: 416.865.6600
Fax: 416.865.6636
contactGR@grllp.com

COVID-19 Provides Rare Opportunity for an Estate Freeze

13 April 2020

Memberships and recognition

Professional memberships

- Ontario Bar Association - Taxation and Trusts sections
- Canadian Tax Foundation
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
- International Fiscal Association
- Law Society of Ontario