# Ruth J. Brackney

Partner
Kansas City | Overland Park
D 913.451.5104
ruth.brackney@lathropgpm.com

**I'm committed to serving as a trusted advisor who genuinely cares about our clients. One client stated, "Our family has worked with Ruth [25 years] and find her to be an exceptional attorney. She has worked with three generations of our family, and I've referred to her several clients and friends who had difficult estate situations that called for an exceptional attorney to assist them. All of them were impressed with the quality of suggestions Ruth offered them."  I prioritize building strong, lasting relationships and am known for being highly responsive. I always strive to be available when clients need support.**

Ruth Brackney has over 25 years of experience helping ultra-high net worth and high net worth clients shape their legacy through estate planning for beneficiaries with special needs, charitable and philanthropic giving and succession planning. She provides analysis and guidance on complex matters such as:

- Administration of estates, trusts and family limited partnerships
- Estate and gift tax returns
- Family Office
- Gift and generation-skipping transfer tax strategies
- Intentionally Defective Grantor Trusts (IDGTs)
- Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts (ILITs)
- Premarital agreements

## Areas of Focus

### Services

- Closely Held & Family Businesses
- Trust & Estate Litigation
- Private Client Services
- Emerging Growth Companies

- Qualified Personal Residence Trusts (QPRTs)
- Revocable trusts
- Spousal Limited Access Trusts (SLATs)
- Wills

Ruth is a trusted advisor to multi-generational families. She leads them through wealth transfer strategies and coordinates family meetings and educational sessions for younger members. She develops creative plans that enhance family well-being, strengthen community ties and benefit future generations.

Drawing on her extensive experience in charitable planning, Ruth establishes and manages charitable entities, including charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts and private foundations. She also represents estate and trust clients in federal estate and gift tax audits and offers life insurance and retirement asset planning guidance. Additionally, she provides counsel on asset protection strategies, such as Missouri Spendthrift Trusts.

In 2022, when Ruth received an individual ranking in Chambers for Private Wealth Law in Kansas, one source described her as “knowledgeable and experienced, as well as detail-oriented and a good communicator.” Another interviewee remarked, “She is an engaged and proactive strategic advisor who knows how to implement and execute.”

---

## Experience

- Developed and implemented a new directed trust structure for a high-net-worth family using a South Dakota Special Purpose Entity, leading a cross-disciplinary team to support the family’s corporate, real estate and employment needs.
- Leading a diverse team of attorneys supporting a multi-generational family with a long history in the real estate industry.

---

## Credentials

### Education

- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, LL.M., Taxation, 1998
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, J.D., 1997, with distinction
    - Order of the Bench and Robe
    - University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review, Spring 1997 Edition
    - The Urban Lawyer, Articles Editor
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, B.S., Accounting, 1992, with high honors

## Bar Admissions

- Kansas
- Missouri

## Recognition

- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, "Women's Justice Awards: Transactional Practitioner Award," 2025
- *Chambers High Net Worth Guide*, "Leading Practitioner of Private Wealth Law," 2021-2024
- *The Independent*, "KC Women Trailblazers," 2022, "Rising Star," 2020

---

## Presentations

- Panelist, "Estate and Tax Planning in Times of Uncertainty," Women in Family Office Forum, April 23, 2025
- Presenter, "Planning in Uncertain Times," UMKC School of Law Annual Seminar on Recent Developments in Federal Taxes, January 25, 2025
- Co-presenter, "Estate Tax Planning in Uncertain Times," Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium's 2025 Intermediate Estate Planning Program, January 24, 2025
- Presenter, "Trust Drafting," UMKC School of Law Fundamentals of Estate Planning Program, October 26, 2023
- Presenter, "So You've Been Named a Trustee…Now What?" UMKC School of Law Annual Seminar on Recent Developments in Federal Taxes, January 28, 2023
- Speaker, "Estate Planning and Charitable Giving 101," Wayside Waifs Estate Planning Luncheon, August 10, 2022
- Panelist, "Current Trends in Estate Planning," Breakfast Club KC, August 4, 2022
- Co-presenter, "Charitable Gift Planning in 2021: Options and Strategies to Achieve Your Client's Giving Goals," Truman Heartland Community Foundation – Professional Advisor Seminar Series, October 28, 2021
- Presenter, "Income Tax Basis Planning for Estate Planning Purposes," UMKC School of Law's Annual Seminar on Recent Developments in Federal Taxes, January 22, 2022; January 30, 2021; January 25, 2020
- Presenter, "Planned Giving Options," University of Central Missouri Alumni Foundation, September 15, 2020
- Co-presenter, "Charitable Gift Planning and Navigating RMDS Under the SECURE Act," MOKAN Trust & Financial Services Conference, August 17, 2020
- Co-presenter, "Pre and Post Sale Planning for You, Your Company and Your Family," A Conference for Business Owners: M&A Solutions for Privately Held Companies, October 8, 2019
- Presenter, "Pet Trusts," Kansas City Estate Planning Society, February 21, 2019

- Panelist/Presenter, “Adventures in Portability”, UMKC School of Law Annual Seminar on Recent Developments in Federal Taxes, January 28, 2017; January 30, 2016; January 17, 2015.
- Panelist, “Practice Management: The Difference Between Success and Failure in Today’s Competitive Environment”, UMKC School of Law CLE Estate Planning Fundamentals, September 23, 2014
- Guest Lecturer, “Estate Planning and Drafting,” University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, 2001-2002

---

## Publications

- Q&A, “Ask the Expert: Powers of Attorney for Adult Children and HIPAA Authorizations,” 435 Magazine, October 2019

---

## Professional Activities

- Kansas City Tomorrow, 32nd Class; Alumni Association
- Estate Planning Society of Kansas City, former Legal Membership Committee, current member
- Women in Insurance and Financial Services (WIFS), Member, 2020-present; Board Member, 2023-present; Treasurer, 2025-present
- Mid-America Charitable Gift Planners, former Board of Directors, Member
- University of Missouri-Kansas City, Graduate Tax Law Foundation, former Board of Directors

## Community Involvement

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City, Board of Directors, 2018-2024; EmpowHer Giving Circle, 2024-2025; Planned Giving Council Founding Member, 2025
- Starlight Theatre Planned Giving Advisory Council, 2024-present
- Wayside Waifs, Board of Directors, 2016-2019; Purr Gamma Bark Giving Circle, 2024-present
- Newhouse Worthy Pop-Up Bar Guest Bartender, 2025
    - Raised over $5,000 for the event fundraising campaign to support survivors of domestic violence
- Encompass, Volunteer/Mentor for Single Moms, 2012-2014
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph Planned Giving Council, Member, 2022-present