



MARY AMOS AUGSBURGER

Attorney Mary Amos Augsburger holds the distinction as the first female CEO of the Ohio State Bar Association and only the fourth leader in the organization's 143-year history.

As CEO, Augsburger leads and directs this \$10 million professional membership association that represents more than 25,000 Ohio lawyers, judges and law students. In this executive leadership role, Augsburger directs the OSBA's mission, goals, policy positions and operations. She leads a 40-person staff and oversees all programs and services to members. Additionally, she orchestrates the Association's 24-member board and supervises the organization's budget and fiscal management of building operations.

Augsburger began her statehouse career in the Ohio Senate, for which she served as Chief Legal Counsel. She was just 30 years of age. She drafted and negotiated proposed legislation for criminal and civil justice initiatives, finance and elections law changes and state budget issues. Additionally, she managed litigation involving members of the Senate, the legislative process and constitutional challenges to state laws.

After a brief stint in private practice in government relations and health care law with then law firm Squire Sanders + Dempsey LLP (now Squire, Patton & Boggs), Augsburger returned to her true passion of public service and advocacy as Division Chief Counsel and Department Policy Advisor to the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Financial Institutions. There, she assisted the Director and Superintendent in the formulation of operational and policy initiatives, as well as proposed legislation and administrative regulations for the agency. She also served as Legal Liaison with federal regulatory partners.

From there, Augsburger moved to the Ohio Auditor of State where she served as Director of Policy and Public Affairs. In her role, she formulated and drafted strategic policy initiatives. She also managed the Auditor's government relations program and directed the office's communications, public relations and outreach programs. In 2012, Augsburger joined the Ohio State Bar Association as Legislative Counsel. In this capacity, she served as the OSBA's lobbyist and advocate, and drafted and negotiated proposed legislation and policy initiatives for state budget issues, civil justice and workers' compensation reforms and taxation, banking, and corporate law changes.

Pursuing her passion to give back to her community, Augsburger serves as President of the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and Chair of the Leadership Board for Trinity United Methodist Church. She also serves as a member of the board for The Wellington School, Ohio State Bar Foundation, Ohio Public Defender Commission, Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company and Ohio Notary Services, LLC.

Originally from Mansfield, Ohio, Augsburger earned her law degree from Capital University Law School and her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University. She is married with one child.

JOHN D. CLARK, Esq.

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Attorney Clark is a solo practitioner with a legal practice focused on helping individuals plan for their future and help their families and the community. His practice is concentrated on preparing Estate Planning documents, including Wills, Trusts, and Powers of Attorney; he represents clients before various courts regarding estate disputes and trust litigation; represents fiduciaries with administration of Estates and Trusts; advises clients with regards to charitable gift planning and lifetime gifts to family members; prepares plans for long-term care benefits and Medicaid spend-down.

John practiced at Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., LPA and was a Director in Estate Planning Section practicing in Estate, Tax, and Business Succession Planning, Probate and Trust Administration. He also practiced at Day, Ketterer, Ltd. as an Associate Attorney practicing in Estate Planning.

John is a Fellow with American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC); member of the Ohio State Bar Association; member of the Stark County Bar Association; past President of the Rotary Club of North Canton; and an Advisory Board member of the Paul and Carol David YMCA.

Ralph Lehman, Esq.

Ralph Lehman has been an attorney with the law firm of Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman & Lehman since 1981 concentrating his practice in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, tax planning, business and real estate.

Ralph has been certified by the Ohio State Bar Association as a specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law and is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 2006 and included among the Ohio Super Lawyers listings developed by Law and Politics Magazine since 2006.

Ralph is the author of "Post-Mortem Planning and Farm Estates: Don't Forget I.R.C. §2031(c)" in the May/June 2004 issue of the Ohio Probate Law Journal and "Determining the Validity of Wills and Trusts – Before Death" in the July/August 2011 issue of the Ohio Probate Law Journal. He is a frequent lecturer for bar association groups and professional, business and community organizations on a range of estate planning topics including farm estate planning, post-mortem planning, conservation easements, drafting wills and trusts, living wills and health care powers of attorney.

Ralph received his Bachelor of Arts from Malone College in 1970. After teaching for a number of years, he returned to school and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Akron in 1979. He was admitted to the bar in 1979 and is a member of the Wayne County, Ohio State, and American Bar Associations, the Wayne - Holmes Estate Planning Council, and is a member of the OSBA Estate Planning Trust and Probate Section Council.



Brian C. Layman, JD, CPA, M.Tax

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As a principal with Layman Law Group, LLC, Mr. Layman provides significant tax, asset protection, estate planning, business succession planning, corporate law, and trust and estate administration expertise to the firm's clients. In addition to being admitted to practice law in Ohio and Florida, Mr. Layman maintains his CPA license in the State of Ohio.

Mr. Layman has been certified as a Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. This certification makes Brian one of a small group of attorneys in Ohio to have earned this distinction. The Ohio State Bar Association has also appointed him to the Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section Council (Chair), which consists of approximately 80 attorneys who study and make recommendations regarding legislation in this area of the law. Mr. Layman is a member of WealthCounsel, which is a national collaborative organization that provide cutting edge estate planning tools and techniques.

Mr. Layman has been selected for inclusion in the [*Best Lawyers in America*](#), has been designated a *Super Lawyer*, and has been elected as a [Fellow of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel](#). He also maintains an AV rating (very high to preeminent) in [Martindale Hubbell](#). Mr. Layman earned his B.S. in Accounting, Master of Taxation and Juris Doctorate (*summa cum laude*) from the University of Akron. While attending law school, Mr. Layman served on Law Review as the Assistant Editor and as Editor in Chief of the Akron Tax Journal. Mr. Layman's published article on *Dynasty Trusts* has been cited on multiple occasions by the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Joint Committee of Taxation.

Mr. Layman and four of his colleagues crafted a comprehensive asset protection bill for Ohio and was present with Governor Kasich when he signed the bill, the centerpiece of the legislation was Ohio's version of a Domestic Asset Protection Trust known as a Legacy Trust. Mr. Layman co-authored, *FOR OHIO DOCTORS: Shedding Light on Asset Protection, Tax and Estate Planning*, the comprehensive resource for all of an Ohio physician's wealth planning needs. Mr. Layman has published several articles, is a frequent speaker and is actively involved in professional and civic organizations. Mr. Layman is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, Florida State Bar Association and Stark County Bar Association. He is also a member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Layman serves on the Stark County Bar Association Probate (co-Chair) and Elder Law Committees and the Stark Community Foundation Trust and Estate Planning Committee (Chair). Mr. Layman is a Director of The Aultman Health Foundation, Akron Children's Hospital Foundation and the University of Akron Foundation.

Dan Griffith, JD, CEPA**Senior Vice President, Director of Wealth Strategy
Huntington Private Bank**

Dan is the senior vice president and director of wealth strategy for Huntington Private Bank. In this role, he leads a team of advisors dedicated to advising ultra-high net worth clients, develops the intellectual capital of the Private Bank and educates clients and colleagues on planning techniques.

Dan began his legal career in private practice where his client work focused on estate and tax planning, complex trust administration, business succession planning and charitable giving. He left the law firm where he was a partner to become chief trust officer at a northeast Ohio-based community bank before joining the Huntington team. Dan received his bachelor's degree from the University of Mount Union and law degree from The Ohio State University.



As an attorney licensed in both Ohio and Florida, Dan has worked to develop legal innovations in the area of asset protection. He was instrumental in the creation of Ohio's Domestic Asset Protection Trust statute and continues to be active in the State Bar Association where he currently serves as President. Dan was also recently elected as a Fellow of the American College of Estate and Trust Counsel (ACTEC). Dan frequently speaks and writes on planning topics for a variety of professional and consumer audiences and has shared those insights in a number of media outlets, including *Bloomberg TV* and radio, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Yahoo!Finance*, *CNBC*, *Fox Business*, *Barrons*, *Business Insider* and the *Celebrity Estates Podcast*.

Dan also has a passion for community service, as reflected by his time on various charitable boards, as a former elected official, and as a university adjunct faculty member.

Valuable Insights:

- Asset Protection for business owners, professionals, and wealthy families
- Tax transfer strategies
- Multi-generational estate planning
- Business Succession Planning

Jessica S. Forrest, Esq.
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

As co-chair of Reminger's Estates, Trusts, and Probate Litigation Practice Group, Jessica focuses her practice on will and trust contests, beneficiary disputes, and fiduciary litigation. She also handles matters of trust and estate administration, guardianships, and estate planning. Jessica's well-rounded background allows her to spot unique issues and find creative solutions for clients in all types of probate litigation.

Jessica frequently lectures across the state on the topics of estate and trust administration and litigation. She participates annually as an instructor of the University of Akron School of Law's Summer Trial Academy – a program unique in the nation for providing students with an intensive course of trial advocacy culminating in a full jury trial. Jessica combines her deep knowledge of estate and trust law with her honed advocacy skills to create results for clients – whether that be via motion practice, mediation, or jury trials.

Jessica serves on the OSBA's Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law Section Council helping to create and sponsor estate and trust legislation. She is also a former chair of Akron Bar Association's Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law Section. She currently volunteers as a mock trial team coach for Akron Law, leading teams to national finalist rounds, and occasionally guest lectures at Akron Law on estate planning and probate law. She is a Trustee and Treasurer for Highland Square Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)(3) group in Akron that plans the annual PorchRokr Arts & Music Festival in Highland Square, Akron, Ohio. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for her alma mater, Our Lady of the Elms School.

Jim Wolverton, J.D.
Director of Legal Education at Krause Financial

Jim Wolverton, J.D. is the Director of Legal Education at Krause Financial—an attorney-led firm that provides asset preservation solutions for estate planning and elder law attorneys and their clients using specialized insurance products. Jim earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Utah State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Oregon. Prior to joining Krause, Jim ran his own law firm and was the Director of Education at ElderCounsel. Jim is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) as well as the Colorado, Utah, and Florida Bar Associations.

Honorable Curt Werren

Stark County Probate Court

Judge Curt Werren is a lifelong Canton resident, a McKinley graduate, and an alum of The Ohio State University College of Law. He practiced law for twenty years at Day Ketterer and was CEO of the Stark County chapter of the American Red Cross for three years. He has served on the Stark County Court of Common Pleas and spent a decade as Judge in the Canton Municipal Court. In 2025 he began serving as Judge of the Stark County Probate Court. He founded Recovery Court and was honored for his specialized docket work with the HOPE Award. Beyond the bench, he serves on local boards and, with his wife Stephanie, raised triplets.