



## Harmon A. Brown

Partner  
Chicago  
hbrown@schiffhardin.com

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D 312.258.5690

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### Overview

Harmon is an estate planner who has shepherded generations of families through the wealth planning labyrinthine. He is unflustered by the complicated family dynamics often associated with these matters and finds innovative ways to mitigate them in a timely and tactful manner.

Harmon's nationwide practice has helped clients plan for the transfer of their assets in a tax efficient and practical way. He has participated in a multitude of family meetings to develop, design and implement family estate planning. Harmon's goal is to provide clients with clarity about their options and work closely with them and their other professional advisors to develop an integrated estate plan.

Harmon focuses on advising business owners in management and ownership succession. This practice often involves restructuring the business entity, creating incentive compensation plans for management, designing voting arrangements, and creating wealth transfer vehicles. After devising these plans, Harmon acts as a hands-on adviser for these clients to fine-tune them and insure they are properly implemented.

### Practices

- Private Clients, Trusts and Estates
- Private Companies
- Business Succession Planning
- Estate Planning
- Family Office Services
- Tax Exempt Organizations and Charitable Planning
- Wealth Transfer Strategies

### Experience

- Led the successful transition of ownership and control of several multi-generational family businesses. The projects involved planning for the transfer of equity interests, management succession and trust design.
- Worked with a family on the design of a business entity to receive assets on the termination of a trust worth in excess of \$1.5 billion.
- Assisted several families to individually design trusts to manage assets with investment advisors, business operation managers and trustees.
- Successfully represented multiple clients with the Internal Revenue Service on complex valuation and transfer tax issues.
- Advises numerous families on wealth transfer techniques, including regular follow-up to insure proper implementation and strategic changes due to updated market conditions.
- Advises several charitable entities as general counsel dealing with issues related to policies and procedures, management and compliance.

### Credentials

#### Education

- DePaul University College of Law, LL.M., Taxation, 1984
- University of California - Los Angeles - School of Law, J.D., 1979  
Order of the Coif
- University of California - Los Angeles, B.A., Economics and Political Science, 1976, *summa cum laude*  
Phi Beta Kappa

### Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Hawaii
- U.S. Tax Court

### Insights

08.20.2020

News Release

*Best Lawyers* Recognizes 59 Schiff Attorneys, Six “Lawyers of the Year,” and 21 Ones to Watch

07.23.2020

Event

Planning In A Low Interest Rate Environment

02.19.2020

News Release

Eighty-Eight Attorneys Named to 2020 Leading Lawyers

08.15.2019

News Release

2020 *Best Lawyers in America* Lists Recognizes 63 Attorneys, Three “Lawyers of the Year”

02.04.2019

News Release

2019 Leading Lawyers Lists Recognize 95 Schiff Attorneys

08.15.2018

News Release

61 Schiff Attorneys Named to 2019 *Best Lawyers in America* List and Six Recognized as “Lawyer of the Year”

02.01.2018

News Release

95 Schiff Hardin Lawyers Named to 2018 Leading Lawyers Lists

08.15.2017

News Release

Schiff Hardin Lawyers Named to 2018 *The Best Lawyers in America*

04.01.2017

News Release

99 Schiff Hardin Attorneys Named to 2017 Leading Lawyers List

08.15.2016

News Release

53 Schiff Hardin Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*© 2017

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### Speeches & Presentations

Harmon regularly presents topics to tax planning conferences, estate planning councils and professional advisor groups relating to sophisticated transfer planning techniques.

- “Planning In A Low Interest Rate Environment,” (co-presenter) Hawaii Estate Planning Council (Jul. 23, 2020)
- “Twenty Common Estate Planning Mistakes,” (co-presenter) Hawaii Estate Planning Council (Oct. 22, 2015)

- "The Ins and The Outs of Planning with Family Limited Partnerships and Family Limited Liability Companies," (co-presenter) 2015 AICPA – Advanced Estate Planning Conference, Salt Lake City, UT (Jul. 21, 2015)
- "Planning In 2015," Merrill Lynch Wealth Management - Saracco Hochuli Group (Jan. 29, 2015)
- "Twenty Common Estate Planning Mistakes," Bank of Hawaii (Jan. 26, 2015)
- "Twenty Common Estate Planning Mistakes," First Hawaiian Bank (Jan. 26, 2015)
- "Estate Planning in 2014," Bank of Hawaii (Jan. 31, 2014)
- "Estate Planning in 2014," First Hawaiian Bank (Jan. 29, 2014)

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

- **Best Lawyers in America (2021)**  
*U.S. News & World Report*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2020)**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network*
- **Best Lawyers in America (2020)**  
*U.S. News & World Report*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2019)**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network*
- **Best Lawyers in America (2019)**  
*U.S. News & World Report*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2018)**  
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*U.S. News & World Report*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2016)**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network*
- **Best Lawyers in America (2016)**  
*U.S. News & World Report*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2015)**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network (2014)*
- **Best Lawyers in America**  
*U.S. News & World Report (2014)*
- **Top 10 Trust, Will & Estate Lawyers**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyer's Network (2013)*
- **Top 100 Consumer Lawyers**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyer's Network (2013)*
- **Outstanding Professional Advisor in Philanthropy Award**

Hawaii Community Foundation (2013)

- **Illinois Leading Lawyer**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network (2013)*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network (2012)*
- **Illinois Leading Lawyer (2011)**  
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- **Illinois Leading Lawyer**  
*Law Bulletin's Illinois Leading Lawyers Network (2006)*
- **Peer Reviewed AV® Preeminent™**  
*Martindale-Hubbell (Since 1997)*

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