

Melissa E. Sydney

Partner

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Melissa Sydney is a Trusts, Estates and Fiduciary Management partner in Shipman's Boston office. She counsels individuals, families, and business owners on planning strategies that preserve and transfer wealth effectively while minimizing tax exposure and easing transitions across generations. Clients turn to her for clear guidance through the complexities of estate, gift, and income tax law, and for structuring thoughtful solutions that reflect both financial goals and personal values.

Melissa's work spans the full spectrum of trusts and estates matters. She develops multigenerational wealth transfer plans that safeguard family legacies, advises business owners on succession planning for closely held and family enterprises, and crafts charitable giving strategies that align philanthropic goals with tax efficiency. She regularly drafts and negotiates nuptial agreements to integrate family considerations into broader estate plans. In addition, she represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in probate and trust administration, guiding executors and trustees through the technical and personal challenges of settling estates and managing trusts.

Her clients appreciate her ability to anticipate the practical impact of evolving tax laws and regulatory changes. She is frequently sought out for commentary on these developments, including media appearances that highlight how individuals and families can prepare now for future shifts.

Melissa's credentials underscore her dedication to excellence. She is an Estate Planning Law Specialist®, certified by the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (NAEPC) and accredited by the American Bar Association and is admitted to practice in Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Florida. Recognized by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* as a "Go To Lawyer" for Trusts & Estates, and honored in *Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers*, Melissa has earned a

reputation as a trusted advisor whose counsel combines technical strength with a practical understanding of clients' needs.

Whether designing long-term planning strategies, advising on complex tax and charitable structures, or assisting families during probate, Melissa brings clarity, compassion, and foresight to every engagement. Her approach ensures that clients not only meet their legal obligations but also achieve peace of mind knowing that their personal and family goals are secure.

Distinctions

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Trusts & Estates (2021-2026)
- Listed as a Massachusetts *Super Lawyer*®: Estate Planning & Probate (2018-2025)
- Listed as a Massachusetts *Super Lawyer*® Rising Star: Estate Planning & Probate (2013-2016)
- Top Lawyer in Trusts & Estates, *Boston Magazine* (2024)
- Named a "Go To Lawyer" for Trusts & Estates by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (2022)

Professional Affiliations

- Estate Planning Law Specialist - Certified by the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (NAEPC), accredited by the American Bar Association
- Boston Estate Planning Council - Co-Chair, Roundtables
- The Boston Foundation - Chair, Professional Advisors Committee

Community Involvement

- JCC of Greater Boston - Audit Committee

Credentials

Education

- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, J.D., 2006
- Boston University School of Law, LLM in Taxation
- Johns Hopkins University, B.A., 2001
- Oxford University (St. Edmund Hall)

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts, 2006
- New York, 2007
- Rhode Island, 2010

- Florida, 2011