



Earl M. Colson

COUNSEL

Earl provides clients with creative solutions in the fields of tax and estate planning, life insurance, real estate, and other commercial transactions.



Practices

[Real Estate](#)
[Tax](#)

Education

Harvard Law School, JD, magna cum laude, 1957
Syracuse University, BS, magna cum laude, 1950

Offices

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Earl is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. He has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* for many decades and has been repeatedly cited as an outstanding estate planner as well as a “top lawyer” in tax and real estate law by *Washingtonian*, and in the magazine’s December 2013 issue, he earned that distinction in trusts and estates. He is listed in *Who’s Who in America* and *Who’s Who in the Law* and holds the highest peer rating (“AV Preeminent”) from *Martindale-Hubbell*. In 2004, *The Washington Business Journal* designated Earl as the top estate-planning lawyer in Washington, DC.

Client Work

Over the past 50 years, Earl has provided advice in connection with: estate and family wealth planning, including the preparation of wills and trusts; sophisticated charitable arrangements; the tailoring of business and investment entities to achieve family objectives and favorable tax consequences; sophisticated life insurance and annuity arrangements; disputes among executors, trustees, and beneficiaries; and tax controversies with the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities.

In addition, he handles real estate and other commercial transactions, including the structuring of corporate, limited liability company and partnership entities, the purchase and sale of businesses, the negotiation and preparation of executive employment agreements and the tax issues arising from these transactions. He is the general counsel to Genetics & IVF Institute, Inc.

Professional Activities & Publications

Earl was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center for 27 years. He has received Georgetown’s Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award and Georgetown’s Vicennial Medal for Distinguished Service.

Earl is the author of many articles on legal subjects and two texts: *Capital Gains and Losses* and

Federal Taxation of Estates, Gifts, and Trusts, both published by the American Law Institute.

He served as director of the DC Bar and as chair of the Estate and Gift Tax Committee of the American Bar Association. He is a member of the American Law Institute.

Life Beyond the Law

During the Korean War, Earl served in Korea as an officer in the US Army Field Artillery. He is a member of the board of directors and a past president of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

Bar Admissions

[District of Columbia](#)

[New York](#)