

Travis M. Cavanaugh

Member

Contact

Phone: 319.896.4133
Fax: 319.366.1917
Email: tcavanaugh@sp.law
Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

Practice Areas

- Business Transactions and Counseling
- Estate Planning and Private Wealth
- Probate Estate and Trust Litigation
- Taxation Law
- Agriculture Law
- Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures
- Banking and Finance

Biography

Travis Cavanaugh advises individuals and business clients regarding estate and wealth transfer planning, general business and corporate law, and tax matters. Mr. Cavanaugh's prior experience as a public accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago provides useful insight into tax implications as it relates to personal and business succession planning, gift and estate tax planning, and general business transactions.

Corporate Transactions and Business Counseling. Mr. Cavanaugh advises businesses of all sizes and their owners and officers regarding entity organization, operations, governance, reorganization, and tax and succession planning, which includes the review, negotiations and drafting of contracts related to mergers, sales and purchases of assets or stock, reorganizations, redemptions and buy-sell agreements.

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate and Wealth Transfer. Mr. Cavanaugh advises clients regarding gift and estate tax planning, succession planning for family businesses and charitable gifting. In addition, he drafts wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, powers of attorney, premarital agreements and estate and gift tax returns.

Probate/Trust Administration. To help clients after the loss of a family member. Mr. Cavanaugh assists clients with the administration of trusts and estates and works to resolve trust and estate controversies.

Taxation. Mr. Cavanaugh advises individual and business clients regarding the tax aspects (income, gift, estate and generation-skipping transfer) of proposed business transactions, pass-through entities (limited liability companies, partnerships and S corporations) and estate planning techniques.

Bar Admission

- State of Iowa, 2012

Education

- University of Iowa College of Law
    - JD with Distinction, 2012
- University of Iowa
    - BBA in Accounting and Management Information Sciences, 2007
        - CPA Exam, 2008

Professional Affiliations

Professional Memberships

- Iowa Academy of Trust & Estate Counsel, Member
- Cedar Rapids Area Estate Planning Council, Member
    - Past, Board of Directors
- Iowa State Bar Association
    - Probate, Trust & Estate Planning Law Section
        - Trust Code Committee
    - Business Law Section
- Linn County Bar Association

Honors & Awards

- Recognized by Legal 500 US as Iowa Elite Lawyer for Corporate & M&A, 2026
- Included in Chambers USA High Net Worth Up and Coming, 2024-2025
- Included in the Best Lawyers in America® list, 2027
    - Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Trusts and Estates
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2024-2026
    - Estate & Probate
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers Rising Star list, 2014-2022
    - Estate & Probate
- Heart of America Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, 2024 Graduate
- Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Program (CLP) Graduate, 2015

Presentations & Publication

Presentations

- Hot Topics Panel, ISBA Probate CLE, 10/1/2026
- Probate Hot Topics Panel, ISBA Annual Conference, 6/22/2026
- Gift Tax Returns, ISBA Bloethe Tax School, 12/1/2022
- Tips for Gift Tax Returns, ISBA Probate CLE, 9/15/2022

Publication

- Author, *Iowa Can do Better than the Affiliate Tax: A Proposal for an Intermediary Tax*, 97 Iowa L. Rev. 567 (2012)

News & Events

2026

- Travis Cavanaugh Listed in 2027 Best Lawyers in America®
- Travis Cavanaugh Recognized by Legal 500 US as Iowa Elite Lawyer for Corporate & M&A, 2026
- Travis Cavanaugh Presents at ISBA Annual Conference
- Travis Cavanaugh Listed in 2026 Great Plains Super Lawyers

Archive

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- Travis Cavanaugh Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2025,
- Travis Cavanaugh Listed in Chambers HNW Up and Coming 2024
- Travis Cavanaugh Graduates from the Heart of America Fellows Institute
- Travis Cavanaugh Listed in 2024 Great Plains Super Lawyers
- Travis Cavanaugh Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2024
- Travis Cavanaugh Presents at 2022 Bloethe Tax School
- Travis Cavanaugh Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2023