Scott T. Ditman

Berdon LLP

New York, New York

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Over his more than 30 years with Berdon, Mr. Ditman has developed a specialty in trust and estate taxation and planning. With a keen eye on how changes in tax laws or shifts in the financial markets may affect clients, he assists them in building, preserving, and transferring wealth.

Mr. Ditman works closely with high net worth individuals and family/owner-managed business clients, advising on estate and income tax issues, and succession and financial planning. In this role, he crafts tax-effective gift programs using family limited partnerships, charitable trusts, generation skipping trusts, and other wealth-building strategies. To allow IRA owners to pass on the highest possible amount to their children and grandchildren, he devises creative strategies to prolong the tax deferral period.

Analyzing and updating estate plans, including wills and trust instruments, he identifies potential liquidity problems at death caused by federal and state estate taxes, generation-skipping transfer tax, probate and administration costs, cash bequests, and funds. Leveraging broad expertise, he plans for assets with unique estate tax attributes, such as life insurance and retirement plan benefits, and develops succession plans for the transition of control and ownership of family enterprises. Working closely with attorneys, financial advisors, insurance specialists, and other professionals, he acts to see that both financial and personal needs are met.

For trusts and estates, Mr. Ditman plans and prepares federal and state estate tax returns as well as accountings in surrogate’s court format. He also plans and prepares fiduciary income tax returns and decedent’s final returns and represents executors in federal and state government estate tax examinations.

Active in professional associations, he serves as Director of the Estate Planning Council of New York City and sits on the Estate Planning Committee of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Ditman is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and regularly speaks at various organizations on trusts and estates, as well as on income tax planning.

Frequently called on by the media, he has contributed to *Bloomberg.com, Long Island Business News, Newsday, Reuters,* and *CNN,* among others. He writes a weekly blog: T&E TALK.

Mr. Ditman received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Brooklyn College and a Master of Business Administration degree in taxation at Baruch College. He is licensed as a certified public accountant in New York holds the Personal Financial Specialist (PFS) designation — the AICPA’s recognition for excellence in estate and financial planning.