Risa Awerbuck

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Risa is a partner at Torkin Manes. She focuses her practice on estate planning, including the preparation of wills, powers of attorney and trusts, and estate administration. Risa advises clients on strategies to minimize income tax and Estate Administration Tax and attends to the structuring and implementation of the plan.

Risa works closely with the firm's corporate and tax lawyers and the clients' advisors in advising business owners with respect to business succession planning.

As well, Risa works in collaboration with the firm's litigation lawyers in estate litigation matters, including will challenges, applications to the court for direction, passing of accounts and appointment of guardians of property. Risa takes a personal approach to her practice to ensure that her clients' family and financial objectives are achieved in a manner that is practical, timely and efficient and addresses her clients' needs and concerns.

Publications & Presentations

Risa has spoken on various estate planning and estate administration matters for The Law Society of Upper Canada, financial institutions and professionals. Risa is also a co-author of *The Practical Guide to Ontario Estate Administration.*

- **"Open Border - Hidden Risks",** Torkin Manes Annual Business Law Seminar, November 2016
- **12th Annual Intensive Wills and Estates Workshop,** Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, November 2015
- **"What You Need to Do Before Meeting with Your Client",** Wills and Estate Planning: A Primer, Ontario Bar Association, September 2016
- **"Does Your Executor Know Your Business?"** BDO (Mississauga), presentation with Jeff Noble - BDO, April 2015
- **"Continuing Power of Attorney for Property / Wills that Work / Top 10 Reasons to Consider a Corporate Executor,"** BMO (Toronto), Behan Barnum Investment Management Group, March 2015

Services

- Not-for-Profit & Charities
- Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Tax

Education

- LL.B., Osgoode Hall Law School, 1986

Credentials

- Called to the Ontario Bar, 1988

- **“Wills and Estates Issues in Domestic Contracts,”** Osgoode Hall Law School, January 2015
- **“Update on Changes in Estate Law,”** Creative Planning Financial Group, November 2014
- **11th Annual Intensive Wills and Estates Workshop,** Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, November 2014
- **Estate Trust Summit,** Law Society of Upper Canada, November 2014
- **“Preliminary Client Inquiries and Considerations Before Meeting With The Lawyer,”** Ontario Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, May 2014
- **Lunch & Learn Program,** CIBC Trust, March 2014
- **“Advising the Family-Owned Business”** (Canada Law Book), Contributing Author, October 2013
- **10th Annual Intensive Wills and Estates Workshop,** Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, October 2013
- **“Keeping it in the Family: The implementation of the successful succession plan / Strategies to Ensure the Continued Success of the Family-Owned Business,”** Accounting Firm, December 2012
- **“At Rest, But Not At Peace - Administrative issues that arise after death”** Torkin Manes Accountants’ Seminar, November 2012
- **9th Annual Intensive Wills and Estates Workshop,** Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development, September 2012
- **“Planning For Beneficiaries With Special Needs,”** Asante Wealth Management/United Financial, July 2012
- **“Keeping it in the Family - The Implementation of the Successful Succession Plan,”** Family Feud II - Strategies to Ensure the Continued Success of the Family-Owned Business, Torkin Manes Annual Business Law Seminar, November 2010
- **“Estate Planning Adding Value to Your Client Relationships,”** Advocis - Durham Chapter, September 2010
- **“Probate Planning & Use of Testamentary Trusts / Strategies to Preserve Wealth & Leave a Legacy,”** Investors Group T.A.D. Education Session, April 2010
- **Estate Administration for Law Clerks,** Chair, LSUC, March 2010
- **“Strategies to Preserve Wealth and Leave a Legacy,”** Investment Advisors, October 2009
- **“Who will manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated?”** Torkin Manes Focus Newsletter, April 2009
- **“The Will Review: Adding Value to Your Client Relationship,”** for CIBC Trust, April 2009

Memberships

- Canadian Bar Association
- Ontario Bar Association - Estates and Trusts Law Section