



W. Donald Sparks, II

Director

302.651.7758

302.498.7758 (fax)

sparks@rf.com

W. Donald Sparks II represents banks, trust companies, and high net worth individuals in sophisticated estate planning and fiduciary matters. Head of the firm's Tax Group, he specializes in trusts and estates, focusing primarily on estate planning, estate administration, tax-exempt organizations, and fiduciary litigation. Don is considered "the top trust and estate lawyer in the state—bar none," with one of his peers reporting, "He's an institution in this town, [and] has the most impressive client list" (*Chambers HNW*).

Don has held leadership roles in the Delaware bar as well as in a variety of professional organizations. He has frequently appeared as a speaker and has written numerous articles concerning estates, trusts, and related topics. In law school, Don served as a senior editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

Experience

- Significant fiduciary litigation involving trust construction, will interpretation, and breach of fiduciary duty claims.
- Representation of banks and trust companies on fiduciary matters
- Representation of high net worth individuals in sophisticated estate planning matters
- IRS audit and controversy work
- Representation of tax-exempt public charities and private foundations

Awards

- *Chambers HNW*, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, since 1995
- *Best Lawyers' Wilmington, DE Tax Lawyer of the Year*, 2015, 2012
- *Best Lawyers' Wilmington, DE Trusts & Estates Lawyer of the Year*, 2015
- *Delaware Today Top Lawyer, Trusts & Estates*, since 2014; Top Vote Getter, 2017, 2015, 2014
- *Super Lawyers*

- *Lawdragon*

Leadership

- American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Fellow and Chair of State Chairs Steering Committee
- Estate Planning Council of Delaware, Inc., Past Chair
- Delaware State Bar Association, Tax Section, Past Chair
- Delaware State Bar Association, Estates and Trusts Section, Past Chair

Education

- J.D., Yale Law School, 1983
- B.A., *summa cum laude*, Dartmouth College, 1980

Admitted to Practice

- Pennsylvania, 1983
- Delaware, 1988

Practices

- Trusts and Estates
- Tax