SpencerFane®

Samantha Winter McAlpin

Of Counsel

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Overview

Samantha litigates contested probate and trust claims involving trustees, personal representatives, beneficiaries, and the exploitation of vulnerable adults. She also has significant experience in probate and trust administration, guardianships, conservatorships, and taxation. With over 15 years of experience as a litigator, Samantha guides her clients to favorable outcomes both in and out of the courtroom.

Prior to her return to private practice, Samantha served as a senior attorney for the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel in Phoenix, where she provided legal counsel to the IRS and represented the government's interests in U.S. Tax Court, with an emphasis on matters involving estate and gift taxation and collection from probate estates. She was educated at Arizona State University, the University of San Diego School of Law, and Notre Dame Law School and has received recognition from the Arizona Bar Foundation for her pro bono work.

Education

- University of Notre Dame Law School, 2011 (J.D.)
- University of San Diego School of Law, 2015 (LLM)
- Arizona State University, 2008 (B.A.), *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- California, 2015
- Arizona, 2014
- Ohio, 2012 (inactive)
- West Virginia, 2011 (inactive)

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia
- U.S. Tax Court

Community Involvement

- Flinn Scholar Alumni Council, Past Chair
- Arizona State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Council, Emerging Leader
- Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, High School Mock Trial Program Judge
- Arizona Animal Welfare League and SPCA, Former Executive Board Member

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Ones to Watch, Litigation – Trusts and Estates; Trusts and Estates, 2021
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, Estate Planning & Probate, 2018-2020
- Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Children's Program Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, 2019
- Phi Beta Kappa

Memberships

- State Bar of Arizona
  - Probate and Trust Law Section
  - Tax Law Section
- State Bar of California
  - Trusts and Estates Section
- Ohio State Bar Association
- The West Virginia State Bar

Presentations and Publications

- "Family Feud: How to Avoid Family Fallout and Litigation," Valley Estate Planners, May 2026
- "Impact of Blended Families on Estate Planning," Barbri/Strafford, November 2025
- "Protect Your Assets: Going One Step Beyond," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Arizona State University, September 2019
- "Community Property Issues in Arizona," National Bank of Arizona Continuing Legal Education Seminar, September 2016