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# Frazer Ryan Goldberg & Arnold LLP

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Super Lawyers



## James W. Ryan

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN ESTATE & TRUST LAW

[jryan@frgalaw.com](mailto:jryan@frgalaw.com)

For four decades, Jim Ryan has helped high net worth Arizona families create financial legacies. One of the firm's co-founders and a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Jim is a widely acknowledged leader in Phoenix legal and business circles for complex estate and business planning for businesses and high-net-worth individuals. His practice includes tax planning, estate administration, corporate transactions, and mergers and acquisitions.

Jim has been certified as a specialist in Estate & Trust Law (Arizona Board of Legal Specialization) since the inception of certification of this specialty in Arizona. He is a past chairman of the Estate and Trust Advisory Commission for the State Bar of Arizona, which administers the annual certification test for applicants in the Estate and Trust Law specialty, and served on the Commission for seven years. He chaired the Arizona Trust Code subcommittee to the Probate and Trust Section of the State Bar of Arizona for four years and is a member and past chairman of the Probate and Trust Section Executive Council. The Arizona Trust Code project successfully concluded with its passage into law.

Jim has lectured on numerous occasions for the State Bar of Arizona, Maricopa County Bar Association, Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants, Arizona Community Foundation, Phoenix Tax Workshop, Arizona State University Alumni Association, National Business Institute, State Bar of Arizona Annual Convention and numerous estate planning study groups.

Jim has a passion for law, golf and music and is a 2010 inductee in the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame.

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Estate Planning  
Tax Planning  
Business Formation and Transactions  
Trust Administration  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Real Estate Law

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Phoenix "Lawyer of the Year" (Trusts and Estates), 2013: *The Best Lawyers in America*®  
Super Lawyers, 2008-2017  
*The Best Lawyers in America*® (Trusts and Estates), 2005-2017  
AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell®  
"Arizona's Top 50 Lawyers," Super Lawyers, 2011  
"Top 100 Lawyers," *AZ Business*, 2016  
"AZ Business Leaders" (Law: Estate Planning & Probate), *AZ Big Media*, 2015-2017  
Eleanor ter Horst Distinguished Service Award, State Bar of Arizona, 2016

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Arizona: Past Chair, Estate and Trust Advisory Commission; Past Chair, Arizona Trust Code Subcommittee, Probate and Trust Section; Member and Past Chair, Probate and Trust Section Executive Council  
American College of Trust and Estate Counsel  
Maricopa County Bar Association

## PUBLICATIONS

ARIZONA PROBATE CODE PRACTICE MANUAL, 5th ed., 2014 (co-author), State Bar of Arizona

## EDUCATION

J.D., Arizona State University, 1974

B.B.A., University of Iowa, 1971

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Bankers Trust Company of Phoenix: Community Board of Directors

Arizona Community Foundation: Board of Directors; Chairman, Gift Acceptance Committee; Member, Philanthropic Services Committee

Ellis Center for Educational Excellence: Board of Directors

100 Club of Arizona: Board of Directors

First Christian Church of Phoenix: Past Chairman, Board of Trustees; Past Chairman, Board of Elders

Christian Care Companies: Board Member Emeritus

Phoenix Country Club: Former Member, Board of Directors; Past Chair, Membership Committee

Phoenix Country Club Foundation: Board Member

Moon Valley Country Club: Past President

Susan L. Drescher-Mulzet Foundation: Board of Directors

Davidson Family Foundation: Board of Directors

## BIRTHPLACE

Grinnell, Iowa