



Eric Kalnins, TEP, J.D., LL.M.

Office Managing Partner

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Mr. Kalnins practices primarily in the areas of business structuring, tax (domestic and international), estate planning and litigation with regard to each of the foregoing. He is also experienced in the creation and implementation of advanced estate planning techniques for high net-worth clients including the formation and operation of family limited liability companies and family office structures.

In addition, Mr. Kalnins is actively involved in the firm's asset protection practice consisting of the planning and implementation of domestic and offshore entities and trusts. Mr. Kalnins is a licensed attorney in Illinois, Wisconsin, Arizona, Ohio, and Florida, and is also currently a member of the trial bar for the Northern Federal District Court of Illinois and the United States Tax Court. His litigation experience greatly complements the firm's tax controversy work at all stages of audit, appeals and Tax Court proceedings.

Mr. Kalnins was chosen to represent his prior firm at the Family Wealth Alliance's 40 minus Leadership Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, hosted by State Street Corporation. That event represented a first for the family office/family wealth industry, acknowledging the significant contributions made by professionals 40 years of age or under from a select number of firms that represented a 360-degree view of the family office industry.

Mr. Kalnins' experience in each of the aforementioned practice areas has enabled him to proactively identify and capitalize on business and personal planning opportunities for the benefit of firm clients.

Mr. Kalnins obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Augustana College, a Juris Doctor degree from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School and a Master of Laws in Taxation degree (LL.M. in Tax) from DePaul University College of Law.

He is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Collier County Bar Association, Estate Planning Council of Naples, Chicago Yacht Club and past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Federal Taxation Committee. In addition, Mr. Kalnins has been appointed as Honorary Consul for the Republic of Latvia, is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Ave Maria School of Law, and is on the board of directors of Opera Naples.

Services & Industries

- Advanced Planning & Family Office Practice
- Business
- Trusts, Estates & Private Wealth
- Trust & Estate Litigation

Education

- Augustana College (B.A., 1995)
 - Accounting
- Western Michigan University Cooley Law School (J.D., 1998)
- DePaul University College of Law (LL.M., 2000)
 - Tax

Admissions

- Arizona
- Florida
- Illinois
- Ohio
- Wisconsin
- United States District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- United States Tax Court

Professional Affiliations

- Member, State Bar of Illinois
- Member, General Bar for the Northern District Court of Illinois
- Member, United States Tax Court
- Member, State Bar of Arizona
- Member, State Bar of Wisconsin
- Member, Chicago Bar Association
- Member, American Welfare Benefit Plan Association
- Member, Chicago Yacht Club

Awards & Honors

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Trusts and Estates, 2027
- Leading Lawyer—Tax Law: Individual Trust and Will & Estate Planning Law, 2017– 2026
- Finance Monthly Global Awards – Contentious Trusts & Estates Solicitor of the Year, 2018
- Awarded Rural family, business and agriculture – Solicitor of the Year – USA: Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards, 2017
- Family Wealth Alliance's 40 minus Leadership Summit, 2009

Community Involvement

- Past Chair, Chicago Bar Association Tax Committee
- Past Committee Member, Chicago Symphony Orchestra Governing Member Engagement Committee
- Past Director, Latvian-American Chamber of Commerce

- Past member of Executive Committee of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

Thought Leadership

September 17, 2025

Bitcoin Custody & Treasury Summit 2025 | "How Family Offices Embrace a Bitcoin Paradigm" Panel Video

July 15, 2025

New Federal Estate and Gift Tax Lifetime Exemption Amount Begins in 2026 (and a Few Other Tax Law Changes of Note Under OBBBA)

April 27, 2011

***Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* | The Line is Becoming More Blurred**

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

June 18, 2010

***Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* | What Do We Have Against Foreign Countries?**

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

June/July 2010

***CBA Record Magazine* | Offshore Planning: What Does the U.S. Have Against Foreign Countries?**

Chicago Bar Association's CBA Record Magazine

2009

Fiduciary Responsibility: Helping to Avoid Fraud

Speaking Engagements

- Eric Kalnins served as a panelist for a presentation on "Estate Planning, Taxation & Wealth Protection" at the Geneva Consulting Group 2022 Naples Family Office & Wealth Management Symposium, to be held in Naples, Florida, May 17, 2022
- Eric Kalnins served as the panel moderator for the presentation on "European Technology Startups," at the annual Spotlight Latvia event in Los Angeles, CA. Spotlight Latvia Los Angeles is a business conference, organized by the Latvian American Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of Latvia, the Latvian Investment and Development Agency, the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia and the American Latvian Association, April 1, 2022
- *"Business and Tax Aspects Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic,"* Latvian American Chamber of Commerce Virtual Lunch, March 31, 2020
- Eric Kalnins talked taxes on Chicago's Jen Weigel show on WLS AM 890 on March 20
- *Discussion on Taxes.* Wisconsin Association of Accountants Annual Tax Conference in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, July 30-31, 2018
- *What a European Company Should Know About Doing Business in the United States,* World Latvian Economics & Innovations Forum in Eastern Europe, June 28, 2018
- *Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies – What Are They and What Are the Tax Consequences.* Chicago Bar Association, April 25, 2018
- *The Impact of Tax Changes to CRE & What to Expect in 2018.* Northern Illinois Commercial Association of Realtors, February 27, 2018

- *What a European Company Should Know About Doing Business in the United States*. Spotlight Latvia Economic Forum, October 27, 2017
- *Structures of a Family Office*, Ernst & Young Family Office Event (May 23, 2017).
- *Using Entities in Asset Protection Plans*. National Business Institute CLE course *Pass-Through Entities in Estate Planning*. National webcast, July 23, 2015
- *The Role and Duties of the Estate Representative in Probate Matters*. National Business Institute in Lisle, Illinois, June 24, 2013
- *Ethical Considerations and Fraudulent Transfers*. Cutting-Edge Asset Protection Skills and Techniques seminar sponsored by National Business Institute in Chicago, Illinois, March 19, 2012
- *Benefits and Advantages of Possessing an LL.M. Degree in the Legal Profession*. DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, October 29, 2010
- *Fiduciary Responsibility: Helping to Avoid Fraud*. Credit Suisse and Foundation Source in Chicago, Illinois, June 30, 2009