Howard & Howard
law for business

Ryan W. Gardner

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"I counsel individuals, families, and business owners on estate planning, asset protection, and business succession."

Ryan is a well-known and accomplished trusts and estates attorney, focused on providing sensible, customized planning to meet the unique needs and personal goals of his diverse clients. From entrepreneurs and business owners to individuals and families, Ryan leverages his experience to implement thoughtful strategies related to estate planning (simple to complex), asset transfer, wealth preservation, dynastic trust planning, charitable giving, business succession, and asset protection. He also advises clients on estate and trust administration, guardianship, and related litigation.

By leading with education and through collaboration with his clients and their trusted advisors, Ryan ensures that his clients make informed decisions to maintain control over their wishes and affairs, and above all, make appropriate arrangements for their loved ones, assets, and business interests. Ryan believes that estate planning is one of the most important practice areas in the legal field.

Business & Corporate

- Trust & Estate Planning
- Real Estate

Ryan routinely advises various clients and fiduciaries including trustees, executors, agents, banks, and other individuals and businesses relating to estate and trust affairs on the following matters:

- Preparing all types of estate planning documents including revocable (living) trusts, wills, powers of attorney, HIPAA authorizations, and related documents

- Drafting sophisticated trust instruments with multigenerational planning, charitable initiatives, life insurance, asset protection, and tax savings strategies
- Planning for closely held businesses, real estate portfolios, and family entities to ensure controlled and efficient management and succession
- Estate administration related to adult guardianship, minor guardianship, and decedent estates
- Trust administration including accountings, inventories, management, asset marshalling, and required reporting tasks

Prior to joining Howard & Howard, Ryan led a successful estate planning and administration practice for a well-known Chicago law firm.

Education

- DePaul University College of Law, 2014
  - J.D., *cum laude*
- Michigan State University, 2008
  - B.A., Psychology

Memberships

- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

Admissions

- Illinois, 2015
- Michigan, 2022

Professional Achievements

- *Best Lawyers*: *Ones to Watch in America*, 2024
- Illinois *Super Lawyers*, "Rising Stars," 2023
- Avvo Clients' Choice Award, 2017-present