

## **Melissa J. Willms**

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Melissa J. Willms is a partner in the law firm of Davis & Willms, PLLC in Houston, Texas. She received her undergraduate degrees (B.A. in Sociology, B.A. in Psychology) from the University of Texas at Austin, her law degree (J.D.) from Texas Tech University School of Law, and her Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Tax Law from the University of Houston Law Center.



Melissa is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and is a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), where she is also a member of the Estate and Gift Tax, Long Range Planning, and Program Committees. She is listed in Best Lawyers in America (Trusts and Estates) and as a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine.

In addition to her trusts and estates practice, Melissa is a frequent speaker on estate and trust planning and administration topics at state and national conferences such as the Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning, The Center for American and International Law Annual Short Course on Estate Planning, ALI CLE Planning Techniques for Large Estates, Duke University Estate Planning Conference, Southern Federal Tax Institute, Federal Tax Institute of New England, Notre Dame Tax and Estate Planning Institute, and The University of Texas School of Law Annual Tax Conference. Melissa was awarded the Standing Ovation Award for 2015 by the Texas Bar CLE staff.

Melissa is a past member of the Council of the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is a member of the Council of the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas (REPTL). In addition to being a member of REPTL's Council, she is currently serving as the Chair of its Decedents' Estates Committee, where she is involved in drafting legislation for the Texas Estates Code.