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Paul is a partner in the private client and tax team.

He practices in the areas of domestic and international tax, estate planning, trust administration and probate and charitable planning. He was a founding member of Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker, APC, where he practiced for over 40 years prior to joining Withers.

Paul has presented at prestigious conferences, including the American Bar Association Tax Section, AICPA Advanced Estate Planning Conference, USC Tax Institute, UCLA/CEB Estate Planning Institute, USC Probate and Trust Conference, Practising Law Institute, California Continuing Education of the Bar and the NYU Tax Institute. He has also taught taxation at UCLA School of Law and taxation and gifts, wills and trusts at the USC Law Center.

Paul is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and the co-chair of the UCLA/CEB Estate Planning Institute. He is also a member of the Motion Picture and Television Tax Institute and is on the planning committee of the USC Trust and Estate Conference (formerly known as the USC Probate and Trust Conference). He is a former chairperson of the Tax Section of the Beverly Hills Bar Association.

Paul has been recognized twice as one of the “Top 100 Lawyers” in Southern California by Super Lawyers. He was also recognized as “Top Tax Lawyer” in the metropolitan Los Angeles area by Best Lawyers in 2010.

External Publications

"Limits on Retroactive Decision Making by the Internal Revenue Service: Redefining Abuse of Discretion Under Section 7805 (b)," 23 UCLA Law Review 529, authored

"Should You Make Gifts Before Year-End? The Effect of the Tax Reform Act of 1976," 52 Los Angeles Bar Journal 226, authored

"Salary – Continuation Plans Can Be Estate Tax Free But May Run Into Gift Tax Problems," 9 Taxation For Lawyers 376, authored

"Planning An Estate in Light of Recent Changes in Tax and Copyright Laws," 5 Estate Planning 90 – co-authored

"Estate Planning for Individuals in the Entertainment Industry," Southern California Tax Institute 875 - 1979, co-authored

"Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts," CEB, 1980; "Estate Planning for Clients with Special Assets," Estate Planning – 1980, co-authored

"The Marital Deduction: Beyond the Basics," 35 Major Tax Planning – 1983, co-authored

"Estate Planning – A Client Based Approach," 39 Major Tax Planning - 1987, co-authored

"Estate Planning for Qualified Plan Benefits After 1986," Estate Planning – 1987, co-authored

"Retirement Plans & QTIPS," CEB – 1995, co-authored

"New Developments: Grantor Trust," NYU – 1995, co-authored

"Federal and California Individual Income Tax Developments," USC Law School Tax Institute – 1996, co-authored

"International Estate Planning," Matthew Bender - 1992, contributed

"Brentmark Pension & Excise Tax Planner" best-selling software program, co-designed

Admissions

California

Education

University of California, Berkeley (B.S., 1972; M.B.A., 1973)

University of California, Los Angeles (J.D., 1976)

Languages

English

Memberships

UCLA/CEB Estate Planning Institute, co-chair

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, fellow

USC Trust and Estate Conference, planning committee

Motion Picture and Television Tax Institute, member

Beta Gamma Sigma

Beta Alpha Psi

Beverly Hills Bar Association, Tax Section, former chairperson

Withers History

Joined 2025

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