GARDINER ROBERTS

Bay Adelaide Centre – East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West, Suite 3600
Toronto, Ontario M5H 4E3
T 416.865.6600 F 416.865.6636 www.grllp.com

William S. Bernstein

Partner

T 416.865.6675
F 416.865.6636
E wbernstein@grllp.com

Expertise

Tax and Estate Planning

Business and Corporate Commercial

Education

- Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M. (Taxation), 1986
- University of Toronto, LL.B., 1979

Bar Admission

- Ontario Bar, 1981

Executive Summary

Bill's practice covers a broad range of tax, estate planning and business law matters. With a master's degree in taxation law, being a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and having spent numerous years counselling entrepreneurial business owners, Bill provides his clients and their accountants with expert, practical advice.

Bill advises many of his own clients with the start-up, growth and reorganization of their companies making use of tax minimization strategies. He is also called in to assist other lawyers when a transaction requires tax input. His careful planning and attention-to-detail prove invaluable in complex matters.

Bill also helps clients organize their affairs with comprehensive estate planning coordination. This often involves family trusts and plans for the continuation of a family business in addition to wills and powers-of-attorney.

Bill has lectured and written for the Ontario Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Ontario Bar Association. He's also been an instructor at the Ontario Bar Admission Course in the areas of taxation and estate planning and remains an active member of the Executive of the Tax section of the Ontario Bar Association.

Representative Work

- Planning in connection with a number of situations where a Family Trust was approaching the deemed disposition for income tax purposes arising on the 21st anniversary of its settlement.
- Dealing with the Canada Revenue Agency in various situations of a Family Trust being audited or reassessed.
- Preparing Shareholders' Agreements for family-owned corporations.
- Dealing with tax and estate planning issues for U.S. citizens resident in Canada.
- Preparing marriage contracts to protect interests in family-owned corporations and trusts.

Articles and Presentations

- Effectively Dealing with the 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule for Trusts, GTA Accountant Network and GTA Finance Network – January 23, 2019
- Update: Planning For Trusts Faced With The 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule – May 17, 2018
- Private Company Income Splitting – September 14, 2017
- Corporate Tax Changes and Planning – March 3, 2016
- Presenter and Author, Planning for Trusts Faced with 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule, RBC Wealth Management Services Conference, Toronto – April 1, 2015
- Tax Traps and Opportunities for Canadians Buying a US Vacation Property – May 7, 2014
- Planning for Trusts Faced with 21-Year Deemed Disposition Rule – December 2, 2014

- Article for Grant Thornton's International Tax Newsletter on Transfers from Canadian Resident Trusts to Non-Resident Beneficiaries, Fall 2004.

Professional Involvement

- Ontario Bar Association – Taxation and Trusts sections
- Canadian Tax Foundation
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
- International Fiscal Association
- Law Society of Ontario