

Robin D. Ferriby

Senior Counsel

Robin D. Ferriby works extensively with foundations and nonprofits on a variety of governance, grant-making, and charitable gift matters. Robin also counsels individuals, families and business on charitable giving and estate planning strategies and techniques.

Robin provides counsel to high-net worth, corporate executives and privately-held business owners on tax and estate planning matters including those involving gifts of unique assets such as qualified intellectual property and private business interests. He also has experience in drafting planned giving vehicles such as charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts and charitable gift annuities.

Robin also provides counsel on family foundation succession issues and grant-making policies including preparation of philanthropic mission statements. He is a member of Impact Investing Committee for the Council of Michigan Foundations and has assisted in the making of mission related and program related investments by foundations.

Since 2012, Robin has been a member of the Michigan Nonprofit Council for Charitable Trusts. This committee advises the Office of the Michigan Attorney General on matters affecting charitable organizations and giving.

In 2017, Robin was named a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Center on Community Philanthropy at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service as part of its series on "Equity and Transformation – The Impact of Community Philanthropy in Creating Social Change." This distinction arose from Robin's experiences as one of the chairs of the Foundation Funder Legal Committee that negotiated and drafted the "Grand Bargain," the centerpiece of the City of Detroit's exit from municipal bankruptcy.

Robin has extensive experience in community foundation matters having served for nearly 19 years as the vice president, philanthropic services and vice president and general counsel for the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. That experience included planned giving, charitable gift annuities, development, donor advised funds, scholarships, special project development, grants, finance and governance matters.

Robin is active in several foundation and nonprofit organizations. Among these, he has been a long-serving director and secretary of the Margaret Dunning Foundation. His past board experiences include the DMC Foundation, David W. Elliott Foundation and others. He is past president of the Advancement Network, a national education association for development and donor relations officers at community foundations.

Robin has been extensively involved in the passage of legislation and regulations affecting estate planning, nonprofits and charitable giving. In Michigan, this experience has included the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (probate code), the tax apportionment act, the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, the Community Foundation Act, the repeal of the Michigan inheritance tax, and the repeal of the Michigan intangibles tax, as well as others. He also has worked on federal statutes and regulations involving donor advised funds and charitable organizations.



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Education

J.D., University of Detroit Mercy
School of Law, Detroit, Michigan,
1987

B.A., Michigan State University, East
Lansing, Michigan, 1983

Fellow, Michigan Political Leadership
Program, Michigan State University,
1992-1993

State Bar Licenses

Michigan

Court Admissions

U.S. District Ct., E.D. of Michigan

Practices, Industries & Services

Corporate Law
Government & Regulatory Affairs
Tax & Estate Planning
Tax Exempt and Charitable Organizations

Areas of Emphasis

Corporate Governance
General Tax Planning
Opportunity Zones

Memberships

- Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation
- State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section, Taxation Section, Business Law Section, Master Lawyers Section
- Financial and Estate Planning Council of Metropolitan Detroit

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- Planned Giving Roundtable for Southeast Michigan
 - National Association of Charitable Gift Planners
 - Michigan State University Alumni Association
 - Ohio State University Alumni Association
 - National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Oaks Chapter of the Michigan Society
 - Detroit Athletic Club
 - Detroit Symphony Orchestra Planned Giving Council
 - Detroit Institute of Arts, Tannahill Estate Planning Council
 - Legal/Financial Network, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan