

Meet Debbie Faulkner, J.D., LL.M.

Estate Planning & Business Transactional Attorney

debbie@burkefaulknerlaw.com; 727-939-4900



Education:

LL.M. in Taxation, Washington University in St. Louis
J.D. Cornell Law School

B.A. Stetson University, *Cum Laude*

Professional & Community Affiliations

Executive Council, Real Property Probate & Trust Section,
Florida Bar

Florida Bar Asset Protection Committee & Speaker

2016-17 Florida Fellows Institute American College of
Trust & Estate Counsel

President, Gulf Coast Estate Planning Council

Member, Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

Accomplishments, Publications, Awards

- 2020 Florida Super Lawyer Recipient – awarded to 5% of attorneys statewide
- 10/10 Avvo Rating for four (4) consecutive years
- 2017-2019 Top 40 Under 40 Estate Planning Lawyer, American Society of Legal Advocates
- Certified Legal Instructor, Business Succession Planning, for National Business Institute
- A Primer on Taxation Considerations in Structuring Real Estate Holdings, Actionline, Florida Bar Real Property Probate & Trust Section's official Publication, Fall 2016
- Avoiding Digital Deficits in Estate Planning, Res Ipsa Loquitur, January-February ed., 2014
- Tampa Bay Business Journal "Up & Comer" Award Recipient, Nov. 2013

Type of Clients & Cases

- Served as primary personal lawyer for an individual with \$250,000,000 of net worth
- Serves as outside business counsel to 150 companies
- Assists restaurant franchise owners & retail franchise owners
- Represents physicians and dentists with multi-office practices
- Counsels individuals through business acquisitions, or business owners through the sale process

Debbie grew up in the East Lake community of Palm Harbor. She attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida on a Presidential Scholarship. At 19, Debbie graduated from Stetson cum laude and earned the distinction of being Stetson's youngest graduate since its founding in 1883. Early

in her career, Debbie became interested in law. She attended Cornell Law School – one of the five Ivy League law schools – and became the first person in her family to obtain a graduate-level education. Upon graduating, Debbie accepted an appellate clerkship with the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

After spending a few years working closely with two appellate judges, Debbie returned home to Florida and became an Assistant State Attorney for the 6th Judicial Circuit, serving Pasco and Pinellas counties. There, she investigated and prosecuted various crimes including sexual battery, DUI, assault, domestic violence, battery, and robbery. She litigated several cases to jury verdict and settled over a thousand more prior to trial.

In 2012, Debbie returned to school and obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation from Washington University in St. Louis. In the Taxation program, Debbie focused her coursework on sophisticated personal estate and tax planning. On September 4, 2013, Debbie opened her law firm, The Faulkner Firm, P.A., and was selected by the Tampa Bay Business Journal for the “Up and Comers” Award, an award formerly known as the “40 under 40.” Debbie was selected from over 400 nominees across Tampa Bay for this prestigious business recognition.

In 2016, Attorney Robert C. Burke, Jr. merged his firm, Robert C. Burke, Jr., P.A., with The Faulkner Firm, P.A., and Burke Faulkner Law, P.A. was formed.