



VIRGINIA PALMER
Partner



CONTACT INFORMATION

Virginia Palmer
Partner

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Phone: 510-451-3300

Fax: 510-451-1527

Office: 1221 Broadway

Oakland, CA 94612

RELATED PRACTICES

» **Estates & Trusts**

» **Experience**

Ms. Palmer is a partner and chair of the Estates & Trusts Practice Group. She focuses her practice on estate planning, probate, trust administration, and elder law including conservatorships. Ms. Palmer has particular expertise in estate planning for both traditional and non-traditional families, representation of individual and professional fiduciaries in the administration of living trusts, conservatorships of the person and estate and decedents' estates. She also advises clients on advance health care directives and end of life decisions.

Ms. Palmer serves as a Pro Tem Judge in the Alameda County Superior Court Probate Department and is a court-appointed guardian ad litem for minor children and incapacitated adults. She is a former Certified Family Law specialist and mediates matters in her areas of expertise. Ms. Palmer is a frequent lecturer and panelist on estate planning-related issues, including estate planning for domestic partnerships, durable powers of attorney, estate planning in the context of dissolutions, and end of life decisions.

» **Education**

J.D., Golden Gate University School of Law, 1980

B.A., California State University at San Francisco, 1975

» **Admissions**

State Bar of California, United States District Court (Northern and Central Districts of California)

» **Affiliations**

- American College of Trust and Estate Council, Member
- East Bay Trust and Estate Lawyers
- Alameda County Bar Association: Estate Planning, Trusts and Probate Section, Executive Committee, 2002–2007
Board of Directors, 1991–1992
- Alameda County Superior Court ADR Administration Committee, Member
- AIDS Legal Referral Panel, 1982 to present



- Legal Assistance for Seniors, Alameda County, Former Director, Board of Directors, 1999 - 2005
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Member
- New Directions, Vice President, Board of Directors

» **Speaking and Teaching Experience**

- Presenter, "Family/Credit Shelter Trusts: Additional Reasons to Consider Retaining Assets in Trust," Tri-Valley Estate Planning Council, Pleasanton, California, November 5, 2011
- Presenter, "Representing LGBT Clients: Not For The Faint Of Heart," 31st Annual Southern California Tax & Estate Planning Forum, San Diego, California, October 26, 2011
- Presenter, "Recent Developments In Same-Sex Marriage," East Bay Estate Planning Council, Oakland, California, October 10, 2011
- Presenter, "Estate Planning for the Future: It Is Never Too Late," San Francisco, California, Peralta College Foundation, October 6, 2011
- Co-Panelist, "Representing Blended Families," East Bay Community Foundation, Oakland, California, June 8, 2011
- Co-Panelist, "The End as You Know It--Death or Retirement," American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys, 35th Annual Symposium, Sonoma, California, May 13, 2011
- Presenter, "Undue Influence and Incapacity: Ethical Dilemmas and Issues in Representing the Elderly," Elder Financial Protection Network, 8th Annual National Summit, San Francisco, California, March 31, 2011
- Co-Panelist, "The Power of Gift Planning: How to Leave YOUR Legacy," San Francisco LGBT Community Center, San Francisco, California, February 22, 2011
- Presenter, "Approaching Bias: Issues in Representing LGBT Clients in Estate Planning," Southern California Estate and Tax Forum, San Diego, California, October, 2010
- Co-Presenter, "Crossover Issues in Estate Planning," Continuing Education of the Bar, San Francisco, California, July 23, 2010
- Lecturer, "Issues in Representing the LGBT Community," California State Bar Estate and Gift Tax Committee Conference, San Francisco, California, March 5, 2010
- Keynote Speaker, "Ethics, Morality and the Law," Professional Fiduciary Association of California Fall Conference, Santa Rosa, California, November 6, 2009
- Lecturer, "What Now? LGBT Trust and Estate Planning Issues in the Wake of California Supreme Court's Decision in *Strauss v. Horton* Upholding Proposition 8," East Bay Estate Planning Council, Oakland, California, November 9, 2009

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» **Estates & Trusts**

- Co-Panelist, "Utilizing Estate Planning to Identify and Deter Elder Abuse," Fourth Annual Elder Abuse Conference, Oakland, California, May 5–6, 2008
- Panelist, "Hot Topics in Elder Law," The Rutter Group, Los Angeles, California, October 24, 2007
- Panelist, "Hot Topics in Elder Law," The Rutter Group, San Francisco, California, October 22, 2007
- Co-Presenter "Estate Planning for Non-Traditional Families," The Clorox Company, Oakland, California, September 25, 2007
- Co-Presenter "Estate Planning for Unmarried Partners," Sonoma County CPA Society, Santa Rosa, California, September 11, 2007
- Presenter, "Ethical Issues in Representing Members of the LGBT Community in Estate Planning Matters", UCLA/CEB Estate Planning Institute Los Angeles, California, May 18, 2007
- Lecturer, "Estate Planning and Elder Law", University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, March 24, 2007
- Co-Panelist, "Community Property Trusts for Registered Domestic Partners", Alameda County Bar Estate Planning Committee, Oakland, California March 14, 2007
- Lecturer, "Estate Planning Essentials" University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California February 15, 2007
- Co-Panelist, "Estate Planning for Unmarried Persons" Horizon's Foundation, Walnut Creek, California May 11, 2006
- Lecturer, "Conservatorships and California's Domestic Partnership Laws" Department of Aging, Sacramento, California March 20, 2006
- Panelist, "Multi Disciplinary Approach to Elder Law," Financial Planning Association, East Bay Chapter, Alamo, California, November 2, 2005
- Lecturer, "When Estate Planning and Divorce Collide", Northern Trust and Stanislaus County Estate Planning Council Fall Seminar, Modesto, California, October 20, 2005
- Lecturer, "Estate Planning for Registered Domestic Partners", Santa Clara County Bar Association, San Jose, California, October 19, 2005
- Lecturer, "Family Law Basics for the Estate Planning Attorney", Alameda County Bar Association, Estates & Trusts Section, September 14, 2005



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» Estates & Trusts

- Panelist, "Estate Planning Issues for Registered Domestic Partners" University of California 27th Annual Estate Planning Institute, Los Angeles, California, May 2005
- Panelist, California Judicial Council, "AB 205", San Diego, California, April 13, 2005
- Lecturer, San Francisco Bar Association, Estates & Trusts Section, Premarital Agreements and Basics of Family Law for Estate Planners, San Francisco, California, April 6, 2005
Faculty, "Advanced Health Care Directives and End of Life Decisions" California State University, Fullerton, March 13, 2005
- Lecturer, "Estate Planning Under the New Domestic Partnership Law, Estate Planning Counsel of Sacramento, February 24, 2005
- Lecturer, "Estate Planning Under the New Domestic Partnership Law", Estate Planning Counsel of Diablo Valley, Lafayette, California, February 16, 2005
- Faculty, "Trusts and Trusteeships", California State University, Fullerton, February 13, 2005
- Lecturer, "California's New Domestic Partnership Laws: AB 205 & 2580", San Francisco Chapter of the California Certified Public Accountant Society, San Francisco, California, January 20, 2005

» Publications

- Co-Author, Crossover Issues in Estate Planning and Family Law, 2011, Continuing Education of the Bar
- Co-Author, California Domestic Partnerships, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, Continuing Education of the Bar, Estate Planning chapter
- An Advocate's Guide, 1993 Health Care Decision Making and the Right to Refuse Treatment
- Co-Author, Durable Power of Attorney Handbook, 1991, Continuing Education of the Bar
- Co-Author, Durable Power of Attorney Handbook, 1990, Continuing Education of the Bar
- Author, Chapter Five, California Elder Law, 1990, Continuing Education of the Bar

» Awards and Honors

- Northern California Super Lawyers, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011