



Michael D. Bonasera

Partner

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Michael spent much of his last two decades in practice around his clients' kitchen tables and in their living rooms, learning about their families and talking about their hopes for the future. His practice is designed around families and family-owned businesses, counseling members on the orderly and cost-efficient transition of wealth between generations. These are sensitive topics and families are not going to trust the specifics of how to allocate their wealth or achieve their desired legacies without a trusted relationship with their adviser. That's why he meets clients when and where they're able, often on nights or weekends.

Michael regularly counsels individuals and professional fiduciaries on meeting the demands of their offices – whether acting as trustee, probate executor, guardian, or a business co-owner – efficiently and professionally. Many times, fiduciaries owe duties to parties who may have different interests, and his decades of experience help him advise fiduciary clients on balancing those interests. Though the facts faced by fiduciaries are often complex and multi-layered, his preferred solutions are pragmatic and non-adversarial. If an adversarial situation proves unavoidable, Michael's fiduciary litigation team has many decades of experience achieving the client's needs in court. He understands how succession plans are designed so he knows how to put such plans into motion when a transition becomes necessary.

In addition to his clients, Michael regularly works with their advisers, including CPAs and asset managers, to help coordinate everyone's efforts and maximize the client's benefits and protection.

Services

- Private Client & Family Wealth Planning
- Corporate & Transactional

Education

- Capital University School of Law (J.D., 2002)
 - Moot Court Competition, finalist
 - National Mock Trial Team
 - Student Bar Association, vice president
 - Honor Code Committee, co-chair

- Ohio University (B.S., 1998)

Bar Admissions

- Ohio

Affiliations/Memberships

- Columbus Bar Association
 - Board of Governors (2017 - 2018)
 - Sustaining member
 - Estate & Gift Tax Committee
 - Probate Law Committee, past chairperson (2013 - 2014)
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Foundation, fellow (2017)
- Central Ohio Association for Justice, president (2017 - 2018)
- Franklin County Probate Court, alum
- Leadership Columbus, Class of 2008

Distinctions

- Ohio *Rising Stars*[®]
- Top 25 Estate Probate and Elder Law Blogs of 2011 by *LexisNexis*
- Top Lawyers by *Columbus CEO* magazine

Experience

Counseled Leading ULT Freezer Company through Merger

We counseled our client, Stirling Ultracold, an innovative developer and manufacturer of ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers for life science and biopharma research, through its merger with BioLife Solutions, Inc., a developer focused on bioproduction devices used in cell and gene therapies. The all-stock mergers was in excess of \$230 million.

Stirling's CEO saw the potential for increased demand for the company's freezers during the COVID-19 pandemic as the freezers were a direct competitor to dry ice used in storing the COVID-19 vaccine. Merging with BioLife enabled Stirling to execute an aggressive strategic plan marketing and selling its freezers. Dinsmore served as the company's general counsel since 2019, and our team of attorneys brought experience in mergers and acquisitions, labor, insurance, and life sciences, all of which was necessary to fully understand and address the company's specialized needs. We counseled our client through the merger while simultaneously defusing challenges. Our team's collective experience enabled Stirling's executives to address the company's short-term needs while also achieving its long-term goal.

“The entire team at Dinsmore was, by far, the best engagement I have had in the 15-plus strategic transactions I have done throughout my career,” said previous Stirling Ultracold CEO Dusty Tenney, now COO and president at BioLife. “Their responsiveness, engagement, availability and deal leadership were extraordinary from LOI to closing.”