

PROFILES IN MEMBERSHIP

Christine L. Albright

In 1989, Christine Albright was encouraged by one of her firm's partners to join the Section, and in particular to join a committee. She promptly joined the Marital Deduction-Drafting Committee. Shortly afterwards, Chris received a request to speak at the Section's first Spring CLE Symposium on the then recently enacted concept of the qualified domestic trust (QDT). Chris realized that she did not know much about this new QDT legislation, but she also realized that neither did anyone else. So once again she raised her hand and joined a panel of speakers for this presentation, which included Dennis Belcher and Edward Koren, also future Chairs of the Section. And as they say, the rest is history.

During Chris's 17 years as an active member of the Section, she has participated in a wide variety of projects and activities. Two projects she is particularly proud of are the two *amicus curiae* briefs she worked on with other Section members. Both briefs, ultimately filed by the American Bar Association, dealt with the correct interpretation of an Internal Revenue Code



provision governing marital trusts. Chris is also proud of her participation in the recent task force established to improve and strengthen the organization and efforts of the Section's substantive committees.

Chris represents high net worth individuals and their families in matters regarding wealth management, preservation, and succession planning. Her practice includes counseling

fiduciaries and beneficiaries on probate and trust administration, transfer and fiduciary income tax, and fiduciary liability issues. Frequently, the clients and their estates and trusts have assets such as closely held businesses, real estate, and collectibles.

When asked to describe the benefits of Section participation, Chris is candid. "Like so many good professional experiences, the benefits are clearly present, but not always easy to quantify. One of the best parts has been all the good friends and professional contacts across the country. The opportunity to hear renowned professionals and government officials on substantive topics of interest has helped me keep on top of a constantly changing legal landscape."

Chris has been involved in a number of professional organizations, including the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), the Chicago Bar Association, and the Chicago Estate Planning Council. ■

Kellye Curtis Clarke

Kellye Curtis Clarke is a 2003-05 Young Lawyer Fellow to the RPPT Section. As a new and active member of the Section, she was a panelist for the "Pathways to Careers in Real Property, Probate and Trust Law" at the Section's 2004 Spring and 2004 Fall



CLE Meetings. She also promoted the benefits of a becoming a RPPT Young Lawyer Fellow to other young lawyers by writing an article in the Young Lawyers Division newsletter *The Young Lawyer*. Kellye is actively involved with the Section's new Young Lawyers Network and worked within the Residential, Multi-Family and Special Use

Committee Group to present an ethics CLE program at the Section's 2005 Spring CLE Meeting.

Kellye is a partner with Shreves, Schudel, DeVol, Saunders, Jackson & Clarke, PLLC, where she serves as counsel to a major residential real estate title company in the Washington, D.C., area. Kellye advises the company on all aspects of residential real estate transactions. In addition, she conducts closings and reviews title records. Kellye also provides training and conducts seminars in the Northern Virginia area for real estate brokers on various subjects involving residential real estate.

Kellye graduated from George Mason University School of Law in 1995 and after a clerkship in the D.C. Superior Court has practiced law for eight years. Kellye is a member of the Board of Governors of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar. She has held other leadership positions in the mandatory bar and in various local and specialty bars in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Kellye thoroughly enjoys her involvement with the RPPT Section. "Participating has provided an opportunity to meet leading lawyers in the practice area and to work closely with other RPPT lawyers on cutting-edge projects and issues. I am frequently in contact with lawyers across the country, and all have demonstrated generosity in sharing information and referring clients."

Kellye and her husband, Walter, have two young children, who keep them very busy. In those rare moments of spare time, Kellye enjoys taking long walks with her family, jogging, going to day spas, and lounging poolside. ■

A project of the Section's Standing Committee on Membership