



Sarah E. Messersmith
Associate

T (757) 224.2950
F (757) 224.2949
semessersmith@kaufcan.com

Sarah is an associate in the firm's Hampton office. Her estate planning and administration work with clients ranges from the initial structuring and implementation of their estate plans to the resulting estate and trust administration. Sarah helps clients create wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, powers of attorney and advance medical directives and assists clients with tax planning and succession planning issues. She also represents clients who are administering an estate or trust after a family member has died, providing assistance through the trust implementation or probate process. Sarah is CRESPA certified and her real estate practice consists of representation of buyers, sellers and lenders in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate purchase and sale transactions and the associated financing. She represents clients engaging in residential and commercial leasing as well as land use and rezoning. Sarah's practice also includes creation of new business entities and working with owners of existing closely held businesses.

practice areas

- Real Estate Strategies
- Private Client Services

representative matters

- Represented estates involving substantial assets, multiple beneficiaries, issues about advancement of inheritance and complex accounting reports to the Commissioner of Accounts
- Represented clients with complex tax and estate planning needs, including preparation of and funding revocable living trusts, and preparation of trusts to provide for children upon the death of both parents
- Represented clients with the preparation of leases and contracts of purchase for residential and commercial properties
- Represented clients with the creation of new corporations and limited liability companies
- Assisted with property rezonings in Hampton, Virginia for residential and commercial development

recognition and honors

- Articles Editor; *William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, 2004–2005

associations

- Virginia Bar Association; Executive Council, Young Lawyers Division
- Hampton Bar Association
- Newport News Bar Association
- Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation, Inc.; Board of Trustees
- Urban Land Institute
- Peninsula Estate Planning Council
- Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate

education

- College of William and Mary; B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2002
- College of William and Mary School of Law; J.D., 2005

press and publication

- Private Client Services Update - Use of Small Estate Affidavits to Clean Up After Probate Avoidance Trusts
- Private Client Services Update - 2011 Virginia Legislative Update - Trusts & Estates Law
- Private Client Services Update - Lifetime Funding of Revocable Trusts for Couples: Avoiding Probate While Maintaining Creditor Protection
- Private Client Services Update - The Special Opportunities for Disclaimers in 2010
- Private Client Services Update - It's For the Kids: Creation of a Children's Trust
- Private Client Services - 2009 Virginia Legislative Update