

Laura L. Nichols

San Diego, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Tax, Benefits and Estate Planning; Sports Industry Law; Family Office & Wealth Management; Agribusiness; Trust and Estate Litigation



Laura Nichols is a Shareholder in Buchalter's San Diego office, and a member of the Tax, Benefits and Estate Planning practice group. Ms. Nichols is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization and is also certified as an Accredited Estate Planner® by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils. Only approximately five percent of California's attorneys are certified as specialists by the State Bar.

Ms. Nichols has considerable experience in the areas of estate planning, trust and probate administration. She advises clients on sophisticated estate planning issues including multigenerational family business succession planning; estate, gift, generation skipping taxation planning and property tax planning including charitable gift planning. She also represents individuals, private professional fiduciaries and corporate trustees as fiduciaries through trust and estate administrations.

She recently finished serving her term as President of the Estate Planning Counsel of San Diego, a 65-year-old San Diego organization. In 2016, she received the "Top 40 Under 40 Award" by *The Daily Transcript*, and in 2020 she was recognized by *San Diego Metro's* 40 Under 40 Award. Ms. Nichols was an Adjunct Professor at California Western School of Law where she taught "The California Pre-Bar Program" and "Advanced Legal Analysis." Ms. Nichols has also been recognized in the *Best Lawyers in America*, Trusts and Estates, in 2023 & 2024.

Publications

- Beware of Proposition 19 Property Tax Increases—Planning Opportunities Still Exist for a Brief Window, *Buchalter Client Alert*, November 17, 2020

Presentations

- Speaker, "Finance and Philanthropy: Women in Professional Transition," Rady's Children Women's Collaborative Workshop, October 7, 2020
- Speaker, "Perspectives on the SECURE Act," February 18, 2020
- Speaker, "Laura Nichols, Speaker at the Mabel Jessop Women's Financial Symposium," Mabel Jessop Women's Financial Symposium, March 8, 2018
- Speaker, "Business Succession Planning," Private Sale Referral Network Event for US Trust, Bank of America, N.A. and Merrill Lynch, October 5, 2016
- Speaker, "Fundamentals of Estate Planning with Retirement Benefits," California State Bar Trust and Estates Section Webinar, February 10, 2016
- Speaker, "Top 10 Resolutions for Estate Planning," Cetera Advisor Network Client Symposium, January 26, 2016

- Speaker, "Charitable Planned Giving," American Heart Association, December 3, 2014

Education

Ms. Nichols earned her J. D. from California Western School of Law in 2004 and earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Southern California in 2002.

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Southern District of California

Community

- Certified Specialist-Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization
- Certified Accredited Estate Planner®, National Association of Estate Planners & Councils
- California Bar Association – Trust and Estates Section Member
- San Diego County Bar Association – Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Administration Member
- Estate Planning Council of San Diego Member – Past President, Vice President, Secretary and Membership Chair
- Rady Children's Hospital Foundation Gift Planning – Current Executive Committee Member
- Scripps Health Foundation Gift Planning Advisory Board – Former Member
- KPBS Planned Giving Committee – Former Member
- Miracle Babies Gala Committee – Former Member
- California School of Law, Adjunct Professor (2008-2015)
- Financial Roundtable – Member
- Vistage – Member
- ProVisors – Former Member