



Susan W. Ylitalo

Partner

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Overview

Susan Ylitalo helps individuals and families with estate planning and estate and trust administration in both New York and Connecticut. She assists clients to set up estate plans that accomplish their personal goals in a tax-efficient manner. She also advises individual and corporate fiduciaries in probate proceedings and non-judicial settlements.

Susan is experienced in working with a broad range of individuals and families in transition, including young couples creating estate plans for the first time and members of senior generations implementing sophisticated wealth transfer strategies to benefit family members and charities. She regularly works with clients' accountants, financial planners, insurance professionals and other attorneys and advisors to create and implement estate planning techniques efficiently.

Active in her community, Susan served for several years on the board of Domus Kids, Inc., a non-profit serving at-risk youth and their families in Fairfield and New Haven counties. At Day Pitney, Susan serves as the Office Managing Partner in Greenwich. In addition, she served for three years as chair of Women Working Together (WWT®), a multi-faceted initiative of the firm, focused on the development of women attorneys at the firm. She continues to serve on the leadership team of WWT. Susan also co-leads an extensive professional development program for associates at the firm.

Prior to joining the firm, Susan clerked for Stefan R. Underhill, United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Despite her Finnish last name, Susan's language skills extend only to French. She spent two years studying in France, first in Angoulême and later in Strasbourg. She lives in the woods of North Stamford, Connecticut, with her husband, Nels, and their younger two children, Isaac and Liz. Their oldest, Alexander, is a student at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland.

Education and Credentials

Education

Columbia Law School, J.D., Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, articles editor, *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*

University of Leeds, M.A., Francophone Studies, Distinction in Degree and Dissertation

Practices & Industries

[Private Client](#)

[Special Needs Planning](#)

[Trust & Estates](#)

[Trust Services and Fiduciary Compliance](#)

College of Saint Benedict, B.A., *egregia cum laude*, All-College Honors, Distinction in French and Humanities, Delta Epsilon Sigma

University of Strasbourg II, Advanced Diploma of French Studies, with Honors

Admissions

State of Connecticut

State of New York

U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

Languages

French

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. [See Awards Methodology.](#)

Recognitions

Chosen for inclusion in [The Best Lawyers in America](#) (Woodward/White, Inc.) for Trusts and Estates, 2024-2025

Named one of the *Connecticut Law Tribune's* "New Leaders in the Law" for 2013

Selected to the list of Connecticut [Super Lawyers](#) Rising Stars (Thomson Reuters), Estate Planning and Probate, 2013-2016

Community Involvement

Domus Kids, Inc., Board Member

Day Pitney Women Working Together, Chair

Insights

Executive Director of Women's Campaign School at Yale Addresses WWT and Guests

March 22, 2017

Women Working Together Host Bi-Annual Leadership Lunch – "Reflections On Breaking Barriers"

May 11, 2017

Structuring Gifts to Minors

June 1, 2016

News

87 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2016 Super Lawyers List
November 10, 2016

91 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2015 Super Lawyers List
October 30, 2015

Eighty-Four Day Pitney Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers for 2014
November 3, 2014

Eighty-eight Day Pitney Attorneys Recognized by *Super Lawyers* for 2013
October 22, 2013

In The Media

How Do You Ask Your Grandmother to Leave You Her Antiques?
House Beautiful, May 27, 2021

Domicile and Residency Series: Breaking Up Can be Hard - Day Pitney LLP
October 23, 2019

Estate Planning for the Business Owner
January 23, 2019

Trust and Estate Planning: Helping Business Owners Keep What They Have Earned
April 20, 2018

Advanced Gifting Techniques
October 25, 2016

Client Concerns: Taxes, Creditor Protection, and Control Over Trusts
Aspatore, February 24, 2016