

Duke Law Firm, P.C.—In the News

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Featured Lawyer for August: Melanie P. Hahn

Melanie joined Duke Law Firm in February 2002 as an Associate, practicing in the areas of International and Domestic Tax, Estate Planning, Wealth Preservation and Wealth Protection Planning. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Alabama State Bar, Birmingham Bar Association and the Royal Society of Fellows.

Melanie received her B.A. in International Studies from Birmingham Southern College and her J.D. from the University of Alabama, where she met her husband, William Patton Hahn. Patton joined Baker Donelson in the summer of 2000, and he practices in the areas of litigation, employment law and construction law.

Melanie, an American, was born in The Bahamas and has resided in Birmingham for approximately 12 years. She previously worked in the legal department of a Big Five accounting firm and also worked for another law firm. Congratulations to Melanie and Patton on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Cameron Cookson Hahn, born December 11, 2003.



Cameron, Melanie and Patton Hahn

Melanie concentrates her practice in the areas of representing foreign banks and financial institutions

with respect to due diligence and determining beneficial ownership of investing foreign entities, foreign trusts and foreign accounts.

Welcome, Allen Sullivan! We would like to welcome Allen Sullivan as our newest addition to Duke Law Firm. J. Allen Sullivan, Jr., is a law student at Cumberland School of Law (ranked in the top 33% of his class) where he achieved a Scholar of Merit, Evidence, and the Dean's List three terms.

Allen received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Auburn University in May 2001. While attending Auburn, Allen served as Vice President, College of Liberal Arts, Member Traffic and Parking Committee, Social Fraternity Spirit Chairman and also achieved the Dean's List two terms.

Allen is a Birmingham native but also lived in Selma, Alabama for approximately eight years. Allen's father is an Assistant U.S. attorney, his mother is a Special Olympics coach and he has two siblings, a brother and a sister. Allen's brother will graduate from Auburn in August, and his sister is a sophomore at Troy State University (Alabama).

After graduating from Auburn University, Allen worked for Southtrust Bank until he began law school, where his main focus has been in the area of tax planning.

Allen is serving as Clerk to Duke Law Firm, providing research, analyzing client matters and assistance in drafting legal documents. He is a wonderful addition to our firm.

To view a photo of Allen, go to:
<http://www.assetlaw.com/about.htm>

Richard Duke will be a guest speaker at the upcoming "2nd Nevis International Financial Services Industry Conference" August 26-27, 2004, Mount Nevis Hotel, Nevis, West Indies. For information:
<http://www.assetlaw.com/events.htm>

Asset Protection Planning with the Use of Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies.

A limited partnership (LP) statute or a limited liability company (LLC) statute is the key, not the drafting by the lawyer, to asset protection planning for U.S. persons or non-U.S. persons who adopt an LP or an LLC under a state law in the U.S.

The LP or LLC statute must provide all of the following: (1) that in no event, other than by vote of the partners or members, does an LP or LLC terminate (i.e., death, disability, bankruptcy of a partner or member does not terminate the LP or LLC); (2) the charging order is the exclusive remedy available to a creditor; and (3) upon the withdrawal of a partner or member, the withdrawing partner or member will not receive distribution of his or her capital account of the LP or LLC until the LP or LLC terminates.

It is recommended that the LP statute provide both the general partner and the limited partners with limited liability protection. Such statutes generally refer to such an LP as a limited liability limited partnership (LLLLP) or a limited liability partnership (LLP).

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