



PROFESSIONALS SYMPOSIUM

Rady Children's®



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



Michael Levy, MD, PhD

Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego and
UC San Diego School of Medicine

Specializing in complex pediatric brain tumors and cerebrovascular malformations, Dr. Levy leads the field of pediatric neurosurgery as a clinical expert, researcher and educator.

Dr. Levy plays a key role in the design and utilization of endoscopy and three-dimensional imaging technologies to facilitate surgery and currently leads two multidisciplinary pilots of emerging technologies to enhance the effectiveness and precision of treatments. One tests new surgical aids, including an augmented reality headset that overlays presurgical MRI data onto patients to support the most effective surgical path, and the other utilizes a micro camera—smaller than an apple seed—to expand a surgeon's visibility range during surgery for more precise care.

Dr. Levy has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, seven books and 60 book chapters, as well as serving on numerous editorial boards and professional committees shaping the future of pediatric medicine.



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Michael Gordon, JD, LLM

Director

Gordon Fournaris & Mammarella, P.A.

Michael M. Gordon works with clients throughout the country in connection with their trust and estate planning.

His practice focuses on how clients can achieve estate planning and tax benefits through the use of Delaware trusts. Michael routinely works with clients across the country to transfer the situs of trusts to Delaware and to modify those trusts to take advantage of Delaware's favorable trust law.

His practice is unique in that although he does work with clients locally to assist them in the construction of their estate plans, he spends the majority of his time working with high net worth clients through the country, their advisors, and attorneys to assist them with Delaware-centric trust and estate planning. Michael advises his clients on complex federal wealth transfer techniques that can be accomplished through the use of Delaware trusts. He also assists clients throughout the country in connection with income tax planning through the use of Delaware trusts including Qualified Small Business Stock planning and state income tax planning.

Recognized as one of the preeminent estate planning attorneys in the country, he is ranked by Chambers and Partners among the top attorneys in Delaware for Private Wealth Law. He is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, a national organization of peer-selected lawyers and law professors who are at the top of their profession and committed to maintaining excellence in the field of trust and estate law. Michael routinely speaks at the top estate planning conferences and events throughout the country on trust and estate planning topics.



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Michaelle D. Rafferty, Esq

Attorney
Maupin, Cox & LeGoy

Michaelle DiGrazia Rafferty ("Michaelle") is a shareholder attorney in the law firm of Maupin, Cox & LeGoy, practicing primarily in matters of high net worth and ultra high net worth estate and gift tax planning, charitable planning, administration of taxable trusts and estates, as well as formation and operations of family offices, family trust companies, and tax exempt entities. She also participates in federal gift and estate tax audits, tax controversies, and trust and estate litigation, including expert witness and mediation services.

Michaelle is a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Trust & Estate Counsel (ACTEC) where she serves as a Regent and as the Nevada State Chair. Michaelle is the immediate past Chair for Cambridge Forum's U.S. Private Wealth Litigation Forum, and on the steering committee for the Cambridge Forum's U.S. Private Fiduciary Wealth Planning Forum. She has been honored by her peers in the legal community with the highest possible ratings and designations of AV® Preeminent by Martindale Hubble, "Legal Elite", "Chambers National HNY Estate Planner - Tier 1 Planner", Mountain States SuperLawyers®, is an American Bar Foundation Fellow, and is named in Best Lawyers® in America in the categories of "Business Organizations" "Litigation - Trusts & Estates" "Trusts & Estates" and "Tax Law". Michaelle has been awarded the separate titles of "Trust & Estate Litigation Lawyer-of-the-Year" (2023 & 2025) and "Trusts & Estates Lawyer-of-the-Year" (2023 & 2025) for Northern Nevada by Best Lawyers®.

Michaëlle D. Rafferty, Esq.

Currently Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Nevada State Bar Probate & Trust Section ("Section"), she is the past Chair of the Section where she served as an executive officer from 2011 through 2019. She appears before the Nevada Legislature in support of proposed trust and estate legislation, and before the Nevada Supreme Court as an advocate for clients, on amicus briefs, and matters pertaining to the Section. Michaëlle serves as a Court-appointed member to the Nevada Supreme Court's Bench-Bar Committee to represent the Section and is a founding and current Executive Officer for the Probate Bar Association of Washoe County. She previously served as an Executive Officer of the Washoe County Bar Association. She is also a long-standing member of the Northern Nevada Estate Planning Council.

Michaëlle is a frequent speaker and presenter for both national and state- wide continuing education courses related to her areas of practice. Recent speaking engagements include presentations at ACTEC on "Silent Trusts", "Lawyer Well Being", and "Sharing the Estate Plan with the Family", ALI/ABA on Decanting & Fiduciary Risk, the Hawaii Tax Institute on "Joint Spousal Trusts", and at the University of Southern California Tax Institute on navigating fiduciary tax & banking compliance. Recent publications include the Nevada Chapter of the American Bar Association's 2021 Asset Protection Manual (and for upcoming 2025 edition), the American Law Institute entitled "Joint Spousal Trusts - Still the Gold Standard?", and for the Nevada Bar entitled "Decanting & Fiduciary Risk - Just because you can, does not mean you should".

Michaëlle represents diverse clientele including individuals, families, entities, private family trust companies, commercial trust companies, university foundations, banks, private and public foundations, beneficiaries, as well as many private fiduciaries.

Michaëlle attended the University of Arizona, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from nationally recognized Eller College of Business (accounting, finance, and management). She served as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C. for Nevada Congressman, Barbara Vucanovich, and thereafter attended the University of the Pacific (McGeorge) School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctorate with "Great Distinction," along with various additional awards for high academic performance in the classroom and in trial advocacy. Michaëlle served as Editor of the Pacific Law Review and was awarded "Best Comment" for her published writing. Following graduation from law school, Michaëlle served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Mills B. Lane III in Department 9 of the Second Judicial District Court, in Washoe County, Nevada, and thereafter joined Maupin, Cox & LeGoy in 1994, where she continues to practice as a shareholder of the firm.

Aside from Michaëlle's professional client engagements, she has served and/or continues to serve as a volunteer board member or legal advisor to many charitable organizations including University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, The ACTEC Foundation, The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, Transforming Youth Recovery, The Parasol Foundation, The Nevada Women's Fund, Washoe Little League, South Reno Babe Ruth, and Bishop Manogue Catholic High School. She is a regular volunteer providing pro bono legal services to the "Lawyer In the Library Program" with the Second Judicial District Court for Washoe County, Nevada, and for the Washoe County Senior Center. In her free time, Michaëlle can be found skiing, hiking, running, biking, or kayaking in the Sierra Nevada mountains and lakes.