

# BROWN & STREZA

## ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BROWN & STREZA, LLP | 40 PACIFICA, 15TH FLOOR | IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92618  
T. 949.453.2900 | F. 949.453.2916 | INQUIRIES@BROWNDSTREZA.COM



### John C. Peiffer II, J.D., A.M.

PARTNER

[John.Peiffer@brownandstreza.com](mailto:John.Peiffer@brownandstreza.com)

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#### RELATED PRACTICES

Philanthropist Representation  
Religious Institutions  
Nonprofit Organizations



#### BIO

John Peiffer is a partner with the Orange County, California law firm of Brown & Streza LLP. John counsels a wide range of nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations, including both public charities and private foundations, with a particular emphasis on religious organizations. He advises dioceses, religious orders, private religious schools, and other religious institutions on mission-focused corporate restructuring, governance, and compliance. John has negotiated and documented numerous pledges, endowments, and other major gifts to charitable, educational, and religious organizations.

John also regularly counsels business owners and their families on succession and charitable planning through irrevocable trusts, charitable trusts, family limited partnerships and LLCs, private foundations, supporting organizations, and other structures designed to accomplish clients' estate planning and philanthropic goals. He advises for-profit and nonprofit clients on business transactions, entity structures, and corporate formation and governance.

John received his Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame Law School after receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and English from Santa Clara University and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

John also co-founded and serves as President and General Counsel of the Napa Legal Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on providing corporate, tax, philanthropic, and other non-litigation legal and financial education for faith-based nonprofits.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Brown & Streza LLP, Irvine, California: Partner, 2021-Present

The Busch Firm, Irvine, California  
Chief Executive Officer, 2016-2020  
Attorney and Shareholder, 2015-2020  
Attorney, 2010-2014

Baker McKenzie, San Francisco, California  
Senior Associate Attorney, 2014-2015  
Associate Attorney, 2008-2010

Dowling Aaron & Keeler, Fresno, California: Associate Attorney, 2006-2008

O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Los Angeles, California: Litigation Paralegal, 2001-2003

Juris Doctor, cum laude, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana, 2006

Master of Arts, Religious Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 2000

Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, Classical Studies and English, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, 1998

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

### 2015 "Southern California SuperLawyers - Rising Star"

Published by *Los Angeles* magazine and *The Journal for Law & Politics*. Only 2.5% of Southern California lawyers in Los Angeles and Orange Counties receive this honor.

## PUBLICATIONS

Napa Legal Institute, August 2020, White Paper  
"Toward a Spirituality of Compliance"

Napa Legal Institute, revised July 24, 2020  
Co-author, "Sample Employee Handbook for Catholic Schools"

Napa Legal Institute, White Paper  
"Why a Religious Corporation?"

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Napa Institute Principled Entrepreneurship Conference, New York, New York, October 13, 2021  
Panelist, Faith, Family, & Charitable Giving

Napa Institute, Napa, California, July 23, 2021  
Moderator, Panel Discussion, Cancel Culture: How to Protect Your Nonprofit Against Big Tech

Stand Together, Live Interactive Webinar, March 30, 2021  
Co-Presenter, Strategic and Personalized Approaches to Family Philanthropy

Napa Legal Institute, Live Interactive Webinar, October 12, 2020  
Co-presenter, Practice What You Preach: Securing and Communicating Religious Identity in Cancel Culture

OSV Institute, Live Interactive Webinar, September 30, 2020  
Co-presenter, Human Resource and Employment Considerations for Religious Organizations

**Napa Legal Institute**, Live Interactive Webinar, August 13, 2020

Co-presenter, Hardening the Target: Protecting Your Lay Apostolate in the Next America

**Napa Legal Institute Webinar**, recorded September 16, 2019

Co-presenter, Steps for Success for Catholic Lay Apostolates, Part I

**Napa Legal Institute Webinar**, recorded October 3, 2019

Co-presenter, Steps for Success for Lay Apostolates, Part II: Becoming and Staying Exempt

**EWTN Catholic Radio Conference**, Birmingham, Alabama, November 8, 2018

Bylaws Tune-ups: Principles and Proposals

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Napa Legal Institute:** President and General Counsel

**California Lawyers Association, Trusts & Estates Section:** Member

**California Lawyers Association, Business Law Section:** Member