BROWN & STREZA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Michael P. Varela, J.D., LL.M.

PARTNER

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RELATED PRACTICES

Foundational Estate Planning
Ultra-High-Net-Worth Planning
Philanthropist Representation
Nonprofit Organizations

BIO

Michael P. Varela is a partner with the Orange County, California law firm of Brown & Streza, where his practice focuses on estate planning, trust and estate administration, charitable giving, and other tax matters. He works closely with families and individuals assisting with trust formation, charitable planning, life insurance planning, intra-family transactions and post-mortem trust and probate administration, as well as estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer tax.

Michael received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern California in 2001, his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2004, and his Master of Laws in Taxation (LL.M.), *summa cum laude*, in 2008 from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Gaining recognition as a speaker, Michael has presented at several California Tax Bar & California Tax Policy Conferences, the State Bar of California's Young Tax Lawyers Conference, and the Silicon Valley Capital Club.

Michael also served on the executive Committee of the Taxation Section of the California Lawyers Association. He is a member of the Taxation Section and the Trusts and Estates Section of the California Lawyers Association.

In his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with this family, going to the beach, and playing golf.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Brown & Streza LLP, Irvine, California
Partner: 2021-Present
Attorney: 2017-2021

Hopkins & Carley, ALC, Palo Alto, California: Attorney, 2009-2017

Richard Carpenter, Tax Attorney, San Diego, California: Attorney, 2008-2009

LL.M., Taxation, *summa cum laude*, University of San Diego School of Law, 2008

Juris Doctor, Santa Clara University School of Law, 2004

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, University of Southern California, 2001

PUBLICATIONS

California Trusts and Estates Quarterly, Volume 22, Issue 4, 2016
"Tips of the Trade: Transferring Public Stock to a Private Foundation"

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The State Bar of California's Third Annual Young Tax Lawyers Conference, 2016
"Wealth Transfer Planning for Entrepreneurs"

Annual Meeting of the California Tax Bar & California Tax Policy Conference, 2015
"Tips and Techniques for Managing a Law Practice with Ethical Considerations"

Silicon Valley Capital Club, 2014
"Estate Planning 101: What Individuals, Couples, and Families Should Know"

Annual Meeting of the California Tax Bar & California Tax Policy Conference, 2012
"Retirement Plans, IRA Distributions, Rollovers and Roths"

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

California Lawyers Association, Taxation Section: Past Executive Committee
California Lawyers Association, Taxation Section and Trusts and Estates Section: Member
Orange County Bar Association, Tax Law Section and Trusts & Estates Section: Member
Orange County Estate Planning Council: Member