



MICHAEL OFFENHEISER

PARTNER

Michael.Offenheiser@brownandstreza.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Foundational Estate Planning
Philanthropist Representation
Nonprofit Organizations

ABOUT

Michael J. Offenheiser was admitted to the California bar in 2005 and has practiced as an estate planning attorney since that time. He earned his Bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and his Juris Doctorate degree (cum laude) from the Ave Maria School of Law. Michael is board certified in estate planning law by the California Bar Association. He is a Blackstone Fellow and recipient of a Distinguished Scholar Award from the State of Maryland. In law school, Michael served on the Executive Board of the Ave Maria Law Review. In 2019, Michael was recognized as Attorney of the Year by St. Thomas More Society of Orange County during the 31st Annual Red Mass.

Michael has worked the majority of his career at Brown & Streza, and has taught estate planning as an Adjunct Professor of Law. In his practice, Michael works closely with individuals and families to create estate plans that reflect their unique goals and desires. This may involve the preparation of wills, living trusts, irrevocable trusts, powers of attorney, advance health care directives, special needs trusts, or the implementation of other estate planning techniques.

Michael once served as a member of the Board of Directors and as a member of the Planned Giving Committee for the Orange Catholic Foundation. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Thomas More Society of Orange County and leads an initiative of the St. Thomas More Society called the Charles Institute.

Since 2022, Michael has been selected for inclusion on the Southern California Super Lawyers list by the publishers of Los Angeles magazine and The Journal for Law & Politics magazine – a distinction recognizing only 5% of the attorneys in Southern California (excluding San Diego). He was also recognized as a “Rising Star” by Southern California Super Lawyers in 2014 and 2015.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Brown & Streza LLP, Irvine, California
Partner, 2018-Present
Attorney, 2013-2018

Copenbarger & Copenbarger, LLP, Irvine, California
Attorney, 2012-2013

Law Office of Michael J. Offenheiser, Orange County, California
Solo Practitioner, 2011-2012

Bolen Fransen, LLP, Fresno, California
Attorney, 2008-2010

Fresno City College, Fresno, California
Adjunct Professor, 2010

Dowling, Aaron, & Keeler, P.C., Fresno, California
Attorney, 2006-2008

Juris Doctor, cum laude, **Ave Maria School of Law**, 2005

Ave Maria Law Review
Executive Board Member

Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, **The Catholic University of America**, 1999

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Board Certified in Estate Planning Law, 7/1/2015

Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law (California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization)

2022-2024 “**Southern California Super Lawyer**”

2019 **Attorney of the Year**, **St. Thomas More Society of Orange County**

2014 - 2015 “**Southern California Super Lawyers - Rising Star**”

PUBLICATIONS

Leimberg Information Services, Inc., May 2020

- Co-author, “Executing Estate Planning Documents During the Pandemic and the Slow Return to the “New Normal”
- Signing During Coronavirus - California

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Napa Institute Conference, Napa, California, July 26, 2024

- Co-Presenter, Mission Based Planning with Catholic Values

New York Life, Newport Beach, California, July 18, 2024

- Essential Estate Planning

Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, Live Interactive Webinar, June 11, 2024

- Co-Presenter, Mission Based Planning with Catholic Values

Orange Catholic Foundation, Orange County, California, 2011-2016

- Estate Planning Presentations

NAIFA Brown Bag Webinar, Irvine, California, April 21, 2016

- Basic Living Trust

Estate Planning Workshop Series 2014, Irvine, California, September 30, 2014

- Advanced Healthcare Directives and More

Goodwill of OC, Santa Ana, California, September 4, 2014

- Special Needs Trust Presentation

University of California, Irvine, 2013

- Estate Planning Presentation

Goodwill Industries of Orange County, California, 2011

- Special Needs Trust Educational Seminar

The Shea Center for Therapeutic Riding, California, 2011

- Special Needs Trust Educational Seminar

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Charles Institute – Founding Member

Board of Directors, St. Thomas More Society of Orange County – Member

Orange Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Orange – Member, Former Board of Directors and Planned Giving Committee Member

Orange County Estate Planning Council – Former Member

Financial Planning Association – Former Member