



## DEREK EARLY

PARTNER

[Derek.Early@brownandstreza.com](mailto:Derek.Early@brownandstreza.com)

## PRACTICE AREAS

Business Tax Planning

Business Representation

Business Succession Planning

Real Estate Transactions

Mergers & Acquisitions

## ABOUT

Derek Early is the head of Brown & Streza's business and real estate practices. He is Board Certified in Taxation Law by the State Bar of California. His practice primarily involves representing businesses and high-net-worth individuals, with an emphasis on tax planning.

Under Derek's leadership, the Business Department at Brown & Streza has become known for its strong client focus, legal proficiency, and dedication to delivering value-driven solutions. Derek is known for combining legal expertise with business insight to produce outcomes that both align with their business goals and mitigate their legal risks.

Derek's areas of specialization include:

- **Commercial Real Estate Transactions:** Extensive experience in advising on the acquisition, leasing, and financing of commercial shopping centers, multi-family properties, industrial sites, and agricultural land. He frequently works with clients on 1031 exchanges and issues relating to California property tax.
- **Structuring:** Offering strategic guidance to businesses and real estate owners regarding their structures to promote tax efficiency and support growth and sustainability.
- **General Counsel:** Addressing various governance, operational, and compliance issues.
- **Succession & Exit Planning:** Guiding clients in transitioning businesses to family members, employees, or third parties, including through mergers and acquisitions. This includes assisting clients with developing plans that will meet the businesses' operational needs while achieving the owners' goals, with a focus on tax efficiency.

Derek is the group leader and host of AthletesTouch, a networking community of former college and professional athletes excelling in the world of business.

Derek won an Ivy League Championship as a member of the University of Pennsylvania's football team, and he emphasizes teamwork and collaboration in his practice. Consequently, he frequently engages with clients' CPAs and other advisors regarding complex planning to achieve better outcomes for his clients.

## EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, cum laude, **Indiana University Maurer School of Law**, 2005-2008

**Indiana Law Journal**  
Managing Editor

**Sports & Entertainment Law Society**  
President

Bachelor of Arts, **University of Pennsylvania**, 1999-2003

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

**Board Certified in Taxation Law**, February 1, 2023

Certified Specialist in Taxation Law (California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization)

2024-2025 “**Southern California Super Lawyers**”

2018 “**Southern California Super Lawyers - Rising Star**”

## MEDIA MENTIONS

Forbes, October 16, 2018

- Using An Intentional Defective Irrevocable Trust (IDIT) To Gift Your Family Business, Primary source for technical information related to IDIT and briefly quoted

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Prudential Irvine Office, Irvine, California, June 19, 2018

- Avoiding Business Planning Mistakes Using Life and Disability Insurance and Other Techniques

2018 Agents Helping Agents (AHA) Conference, Irvine, California, March 30, 2018

- Using Life and Disability Insurance for Business Planning

Exit Planning Institute SoCal Chapter Meeting, Club, Costa Mesa, California, June 1, 2017

- Family Business Divorce

CalCPA Study Group Breakfast, Anaheim, California, September 22, 2016

- Buy-Sell Agreements

Morgan Stanley Seminar, Newport Beach, California, June 28, 2016

- Avoid the 6 Mistakes that Business Owners Make

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

100 Companies That Care – Member

State Bar of California – Member

American Bar Association – Member

Athletes Touch (Professional Networking Community of Former College and Professional Athletes) – Former Host/Group Leader

FUSION – Former Host/Member