

Russ Willis

Russ is a tax lawyer, a freelance writer, and a consultant to other lawyers -- an advisor to the advisor -- on issues arising in connection with wealth transfers.

Among his other engagements, Russ is a manager of noncash research for Charitable Solutions, LLC, a planned gift risk management consulting firm headed by Bryan Clontz, and he is the director of the Greystocke Project, a 501(c)(4) that works to raise awareness of trends in the law, both tax and nontax, that tend to exacerbate wealth disparities in this country, and to advocate for selected legislative, regulatory, and judicial countermeasures.

For ten years, he wrote for a subscription website that provided daily coverage and in-depth analysis of developments in tax law affecting charitable gift planning. About three years ago, he launched his own newsletter, the Jack Straw Fortnightly, analyzing current developments in the law -- both tax and nontax -- concerning the transfer of private wealth in this country.

As a practicing lawyer in St. Louis, Missouri, for more than 20 years, Russ chaired the Steering Committee of the Probate and Trust Law Section of the local bar association and served for years on a legislative drafting subcommittee of the Probate and Trust Law Committee of the State Bar. As an adjunct member of the faculty at the St. Louis University School of Law, he taught courses in future interests and tax-driven estate planning.

Russ has written numerous articles for law journals and publications serving the charitable planned giving profession, and he has been a frequent speaker at seminars for lawyers and for charitable gift planners.

Russ has a law degree from St. Louis University and a master's degree in Taxation Law from Washington University in St. Louis. His undergraduate degree in English Literature is from Indiana University, Bloomington, and he has a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago.