LEWIS WAGNER & TRIMBLE
ATTORNEYS



# Christopher J. Mueller

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Chris takes an analytical approach to every case and strives to help clients identify creative and practical solutions to their complex legal matters. He strives to take complicated and often emotionally charged issues, and communicate those clearly, concisely, and objectively.

## Education and Bar Admissions

- Valparaiso University
  - B.S. Chemistry, *magna cum laude*, 2010
  - B.A. Music, *magna cum laude*, 2010
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee – Graduate Certificate, Public Health, 2011
- Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, J.D., *cum laude,* 2015
- Supreme Court of Indiana, 2015
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, 2015
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, 2015

## Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Business Litigation
Business Transactions & Corporate Services
Estate & Trust Administration
Estate Planning
Real Estate Transactions

## Biography

Chris brings an innate curiosity to every case he tackles. He has earned multiple degrees in a range of focus areas, including chemistry and music. With a dual perspective of the rigorous scientific process and artistic creativity, he finds hidden connections and creative solutions to solve multifaceted problems in unique ways.
Chris spends his day representing clients in legal matters related to trusts and estates, real estate, business, tax planning, and general civil litigation. He represents clients in complex litigation and helps businesses and individuals plan wisely for the future. As a registered civil mediator, Chris relishes the opportunity to settle cases to the satisfaction of everyone involved.
Chris is a native of Cedarburg, Wisconsin. He moved to Indianapolis after meeting his wife, Laura. Along with their three young children, they enjoy cooking, hiking, and spending time with extended family. Chris and his wife are enthusiastic and passionate supporters of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, and The Indianapolis Children's Choir.

## Accolades, Affiliations and Activities

- Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum – Futures Council, 2021-present
- Indiana Registered Civil Mediator – 2015
- Indiana State Bar Association – Probate, Trust, and Real Property Section, District 6 Representative
- *Indiana Super Lawyers,* Rising Stars, 2019-2026
- *Best Lawyers*
  - *Ones to Watch*: 2026-2027
- Indiana YMCA – Youth and Government Advisory Board
  - Chair, 2017
  - Vice Chair, 2016
  - Member and Court Program Director, 2014-2015, 2018-2019
- Indianapolis American Inn of Court, 2014-2015, 2017-present
- Indianapolis Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division Social Committee, 2017
- Resurrection Lutheran Church Indianapolis

## Publications and Presentations

- "Probate & Estate Litigation Generally; Resulting Litigation from Poor or Less Than Desirable Drafting of Documents," Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum: Estate Planning Strategies, Tools, Techniques and More, 2023.
- "5 Tips on Estate and Trust Settlement Agreements," Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum (ICLEF): 90 Hot Tips in Estate, Trust, and Probate Practice, 2022.
- "Ethical Considerations in Drafting Trusts for Clients with Diminished Capacity," ICLEF: Trust Planning Beyond the Acronyms, 2022.
- ICLEF: Reality CLE, Mediation Panel, 2021.
- "Continued Covid Craziness! What Does it Look Like and How Are You Staying Well?," Indiana State Bar Association, 2021.
- "How to Avoid Probate – But Should You?," ICLEF, 2019.
- "Estate Administration Procedures: Why Each Step is Important," *National Business Institute (NBI)*, 2019.
- "Estate and Trust Contests, Disputes, Challenges," *NBI*, 2018.
- "Handling Debts and Claims Against the Estate," *NBI*, 2018.
- "The Fiduciary Detective: Asset Marshalling Challenges," Indiana State Bar Association, 2018.
- "Legal Ethics in Estate Administration," *NBI*, 2017.
- "Handling Debts and Claims Against the Estate," *NBI*, 2017.
- "Locating Companies for Due Diligence and Background Information," *NBI*, 2015.
- "Locating Persons and Finding Background Information," *NBI*, 2015.

## Selected Cases and Representation

- *Moriarty v. Moriarty*, 150 N.E.3d 616 (Ind. Ct. App. 2020).
- *ShermansTravel Media, LLC v. Gen3Ventures, LLC*, 152 N.E.3d 616 (Ind. Ct. App. 2020).
- *In re Estate of Melvin Simon*, Cause No. 29D03-0910-ES-000141 (Hamilton Co. Ind. Sup. Ct. 3).
- *In re the Christel DeHaan 2012 Irrevocable Investment Trust dated March 7, 2012*, Cause No. 49D01-1703-TR-012560 (Marion Co. Ind. Sup. Ct. 1), and *In re the Irrevocable Trust Agreement for Kirsten Andrea DeHaan dated April 15, 1997*, Cause No. 49D01-1611-TR-042212 (Marion Co. Ind. Sup. Ct. 1).
- *The National Bank of Indianapolis v. Ripley Entertainment, Inc.*, No. 6:18-cv-03394-MDH (West. Dist. of Missouri May 18, 2021).