

Biography of Christine Forakis Cracchiolo



Christine Forakis Cracchiolo, a fourth generation Arizona native, is one of the foremost estate planning attorneys in Arizona, representing some of the state's most notable families. Christine blends more than 25 years of experience in estate planning with a warm, accessible personality—making her a highly sought-after expert resource. Her clientele includes doctors, dentists, athletes, politicians, farmers, business owners, and non-profit corporations.

In 2006, she founded Forakis Law Firm, PLC, now home to three attorneys, paralegals, assistants and other professionals, with the intent to create a place where clients could feel 'at home' while addressing some of life's biggest questions regarding their succession and legacy.

Her firm specializes in preventive law—a highly proactive approach to estate planning, and offers a full spectrum of complementary, integrated practice areas including business law, asset protection, probate, succession planning, non-profits, guardianship, tax planning, elder law and special needs planning.

Christine is a frequent public speaker for various groups including the National Business Institute, The Women's Chamber of Commerce, The Arizona Real Estate Investors Association, The Arizona Naturopathic Institute, The Society of Financial Service Professionals, and many others. She has also served as a co-host for the weekly radio show "Creating Your Family Dynasty" on channel 1310AM. Recorded broadcasts of her shows can be found at MyLegalHome.com. Christine was also recently interviewed on KFNX 1100 AM on the importance of establishing a family dynasty and her own journey to becoming a successful business owner in Arizona.

Christine was selected for the 2011 Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, which is exclusive to women lawyers who have achieved the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards. She currently has an AV rating, the highest possible rating, from the Martindale Hubbell Bar Register.

Christine has been serving as a charter member of Mingus Mountain Estate Residential Center, Inc. (MMERCI) for over 22 years. MMERCI is a residential treatment center for emotionally and behaviorally at-risk adolescent girls. She is the President of the PAAK Foundation, and a founding member of Phoenix Metro Chamber of commerce. Previously she has served as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Greater Phoenix Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals, and the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the non-profit People Investing in People for two terms. Christine has participated in numerous other boards and organizations in Arizona over the years such as the Rotary 100, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and more.

Christine has a black belt in Shotokan Karate. She has competed internationally/nationally, earning numerous accolades including Western State's Champion and National Champion in Kata. She is also a trained ballet dancer and has danced in Ballet West's *Nutcracker*. She loves tennis and plays in a league, practices yoga, and loves hiking and playing poker. She resides in Phoenix with her husband Mike Cracchiolo and their children.

Education

Christine attended Arizona State University for Undergraduate work and graduated Cum Laude from the Honors Program. She received her Juris Doctor degree in May 1992 from the University of Miami School of Law. During law school, she was elected to offices on two Law Reviews. She was Research and Writing Editor of *Entertainment and Sports Law Review* and Articles of Comments Editor of *Business Law Journal*.

Family History

Christine's family has a long history in Arizona. Her great-grandfather, Dr. F.G. Angeny, founded the Deaconess Hospital, which later became Good Samaritan Hospital. Her grandfather, J. Melvin Goodson, served as speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Arizona, ran for governor of the state, and retired as Chairman of the Board of Arizona Refining Company. Her father, John F. Goodson, was a preeminent estate planning attorney, author and public speaker and helped lay the foundation for Christine's ethical family-style practice today.

Current Group Affiliations:

- Mingus Mountain Academy – Charter Member
- The Cracchiolo Museum – Board of Directors
- Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce – Founding Member
- PAAK Foundation – President

Past Group Affiliations:

- NAWBO – nawbophx.org – Former Member
- Rotary 100 – rotary100.org – Former Member
- Vistage International – vistage.com – Former Member
- Christian Legal Society – christianlegalaidaz.com
- Rim Trail Board – Former Treasurer
- People Investing in People – Former Secretary
- Le Tip – letipaz.com – Former Vice President

Public Speaking Events:

Arizona Naturopathic Medical Association – *Asset Protection for Doctors*, Spring 2007 Convention

National Business Institute – *Estate Planning Basics*, November 2007

National Business Institute – *Making the Best Use of Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts*, May 2008

Phoenix Women’s Chamber of Commerce Seminar – *Protecting your Assets*, May 2008

National Business Institute – *Cutting-Edge Asset Protection Skills and Techniques*, October 2008

The Medicare Supplement Leadership Conference – *Estate and Asset Protection*, October 2008

National Business Institute – *LLC Trends and Developments*, September 2008

Society of Financial Service Professionals Seminar, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – *Mom and Pop are Ready to Retire, but is Their Money Ready To?* August 2008

Your Insurance Matters Radio Show – *Life insurance, Death Taxes and Estate Planning*, December 2008

Women’s Investor Group, April 2009

Proactive Transitioning – *Ask the Experts*, November 2009

Scottsdale Young Estate Planners – *Wealth, Transfer, Business and Charitable Estate Planning*, May 2010

Professional Women’s Network – *Estate Planning for Professional Women*, June 2010

Parrots of the Hills Bird Club – *Pet Estate Planning*, September 2010

Christian Legal Society Convention, Orlando, Florida – *Hot Topics of Estate Planning*, October 2010

First Christian Church – *Special Needs Estate Planning*, February 2011

Maricopa County SWAT Division – *Estate Planning and Asset Protection*, August 2012

National Business Institute – *Income Tax Planning for Trusts and Estates*, September 2012

Top Estate Planning Techniques – *Simple and Effective Wealth Preservation Methods for Business Entities*, June 2013

Succession Plans for Attorneys, September 2013

2013 Annual Workers’ Compensation Seminar, September 2013

Estate Planning for Business Owners with Doug Schmidt, October 2013

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Asset Protection and Disinherit the IRS – *Famous Mistakes with Raymond James*, October 2013

Women’s Wealth Preservation Seminar at National Bank of Arizona, April 2014

Price Kong Lunch and Learn – *Planning for Trusts and Estates*, July 2017

Bank of Arizona’s Retirement & Estate Planning Seminar, July 2017

The University Club – *10 Biggest Estate Planning Blunders of Celebrities*, June 2018

Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance, Phoenix Chapter – *How to Create and Protect a Family Dynasty*, June 2019