



Emma K. Pletenycky

Associate

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Overview

Emma K. Pletenycky advises high net worth individuals and families in all aspects of trusts and estates matters. Her practice includes the preparation of wills and trusts, drafting Surrogate's Court documents, representing individual and corporate fiduciaries in contested proceedings and advising clients on estate and trust administrations.

Prior to entering private practice, Emma served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rita Mella, Surrogate of New York County, where she drafted decisions and conferred on complex and novel issues before the court in contested probate, miscellaneous and administration proceedings. This experience gave her valuable insight into Surrogate's Court practice, which she draws upon when advocating for her clients. Emma also served as Administrator of the Civil Appeals Mediation Program at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Emma was a 2018 recipient of the New York Bar Foundation's Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellowship and served as a fellow in the chambers of the Honorable Peter J. Kelly, Surrogate of Queens County.

In addition to her practice, Emma serves as a panel member and pro bono attorney for the Planning and Estate Law Project of the City Bar Justice Center, where she provides estate planning services to New York City individuals in need. In recognition of her dedication and commitment to the project, Emma was honored as a 2024 recipient of the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award from the City Bar Justice Center.

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. [See Awards Methodology.](#)

Education and Credentials

Education

New York Law School, J.D., 2019

St. John's University, B.A., 2014

Admissions

State of New York

Practices & Industries

Fiduciary and Probate Litigation

Private Client

Trust & Estates

Affiliations

New York State Bar Association, Trusts and Estates Law Section, Estate Planning Committee, Co-Chair (2026-Present), Mediation Committee Vice Chair (2024-2025)

New York City Bar Justice Center Planning and Estates Law Project (PELP), Attorney Panel Member

City Bar Justice Center's Pro Bono Leadership Council, Member, 2025-2026

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. [See Awards Methodology.](#)

Recognitions

Recipient of 2025 New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Law Section Rising Star Fellowship, 2025

Recipient of Pro Bono Award from the City Bar Justice Center, 2024

Recipient of Professor Joseph T. Arenson Award for Excellence in Wills and Decedent's Estates, New York Law School, 2019

Recipient of Alexander D. Forger Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession, New York Law School, 2019

Insights

Why Mediate in Surrogate's Court? Practical Benefits and Real Examples

New York State Bar Association , October 29, 2025

Proving an Inter Vivos Gift in New York: Lessons from 'Matter of Ingberman'

New York Law Journal, October 14, 2025

Highlights of Mediation Programs in the New York Surrogate's Courts

December 13, 2024

Class Gifts and NY's 'Adoption Out' Statute: Guidance for NY Fiduciaries on Minimizing Litigation Risks

New York Law Journal, December 13, 2024

News

Emma Pletenycky Honored as 2025 Rising Star Fellow at NYSBA Trusts and Estates Section Spring Meeting

May 13, 2025

Emma K. Pletenycky Receives 2025 New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Law Section Rising Star Fellowship

Day Pitney Press Release, January 16, 2025

Emma K. Pletenycky Receives Pro Bono Award from the City Bar Justice Center

September 23, 2024

In The Media

"Day in the Life of a Trusts & Estates Lawyer," New York State Bar Association
June 9, 2026

"Modern Family Feuds: Insights from the Surrogates," New York State Bar Association – Trusts and Estates Law Section
September 27, 2025

New York Private Client Department Attorneys Michael S. Schwartz and Emma Pletenycky speak at Estate Planners Day on
May 22 with Estate Planning Council of New York City
May 22, 2024

"Trusts and Estates Law Section 2023 Fall Meeting," NYSBA
September 29, 2023

"20th Annual Tax Lawyering Workshop," New York Law School
April 21, 2023