



Stephen W. Kraus

SHAREHOLDER

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CONNECT

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Overview

Steve Kraus advises clients on a broad range of tax and ERISA matters relating to qualified and nonqualified retirement plans, IRAs and IRA annuities, health, and other welfare benefit plans. He has extensive experience dealing with the fiduciary and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, including the newly issued Department of Labor “investment advice” regulation and accompanying exemptions. He also advises life insurance company clients on the tax qualification of annuities and life insurance contracts. He has experience dealing with the issues surrounding synthetic annuities, including securing private letter rulings for clients; advising clients with regard to issues surrounding bank-owned life insurance; and advising clients regarding mutual fund taxation issues.

Steve has represented clients on numerous matters before both the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Labor. He was chief counsel, Retirement Security for the American Council of Life Insurers, where he worked for 25 years.

All Insights

- 07.01.2020 DOL Proposes Restoring Original Investment Advice Regulation and New Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption for Investment-Advice Fiduciaries
- 04.13.2020 Fidelity Beats Back ERISA Challenge: Infrastructure Fee Complaint Dismissed
- 10.04.2019 ETFs on the Horizon for Variable Products?
- 03.31.2018 Fifth Circuit Vacates DOL Fiduciary Rule
- 11.27.2017 New Model Regulation Gives Insurers Little to Be Thankful For

06.15.2015	DOL Proposal Would Fundamentally Alter Fiduciary Relationship
05.20.2015	Supreme Court Clarifies Scope of Fiduciary Duty Under ERISA
01.01.2015	Handbook on ERISA Litigation (4th ed. 2015), Wolters Kluwer Law & Business/Aspen Publishers
10.27.2014	Treasury Department and IRS Allow Lifetime Annuity Contracts as Investments by Target Date Funds
09.16.2014	Supreme Court Establishes New Standard for Fiduciaries of ESOP Plans
07.08.2014	PBGC Supports Lifetime Income
07.07.2014	Rules Will Allow Issuance of Longevity Insurance in Retirement Plans
08.01.2012	Labor Department Modifies Disclosure Regarding Brokerage Windows in Participant-Directed Plans
02.03.2012	Department of Labor Issues Final Regulation Relating to Fee Disclosures by Service Providers to Plan Fiduciaries

Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Association of Life Insurance Counsel
- District of Columbia Bar
- Board of Advisers, BNA Pension & Benefits Reporter

Speaking Engagements

- "Update on ERISA Retirement Plan Litigation – Including Impact of the DOL Rule," Insured Retirement Institute Webinar, Washington, D.C. (January 17, 2018)
- "Analysis of the Department of Labor's Fiduciary Rule Proposal," Client Focus Forum, Baltimore, MD (October, 2016)
- "Product Design and Distribution in a Post-DOL Fiduciary World – Part II," ACLI Compliance & Legal Sections Annual Meeting (July 2016)
- "Is There a Future for Insurance Agents Under the DOL Rule?,"

InsuranceNewsNet.com (April 21, 2016)

- “Is There a Future for Insurance Agents Under the DOL Rule?,” InsuranceNewsNet.com Webinar (April 20, 2016)
- “Answering The ‘Top Ten’ Key Questions About The DOL Fiduciary Rule,” Insured Retirement Institute Webinar, Washington, D.C. (March 8, 2016)
- ALI-ABA Conference on Life Insurance Company Products (2004)
- American Conference Institute Long-Term Care Conference (2001)
- International Claim Association (2000)

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M.)
- George Washington University Law School (J.D.)
 - Order of the Coif
- Brooklyn College (B.S.)

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
- U.S. Tax Court

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia

Areas of Focus

PRACTICES

- Employee Benefits, Compensation & ERISA
- Financial Services Regulatory
- Labor & Employment
- Life, Annuity, and Retirement Solutions
- Tax