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**MAXIMILLIENNE “MAX” ELLIOTT**, Managing Attorney and Founder of The Law Offices of Max Elliott, Ltd., is a licensed, Illinois estate and business planning and estate administration attorney. Her firm serves clients in most major metropolitan U.S. cities and focuses on culturally diverse families, persons, and business owners, including but not limited to LGBTQ+ families, professional women, multinational families, and Black business owners. The firm’s services include estate planning for non-taxable and taxable estates, asset protection, estate administration, and fiduciary services.

Ms. Elliott routinely presents and lectures to lawyers, students, and community groups on the intersection of estate and retirement planning; generational wealth transfers, and fiduciary selection; protective measures for seniors and the LGBTQ+ community; and small business essentials, including legal entity selection, succession planning. She has presented for Harvard’s Research Center – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, and Quimbee – the award-winning Bar Review Program.

Ms. Elliott is former Chair and first African American member of the Executive Committee for the Chicago Bar Association’s Trust Law Committee, is a member of the Chicago Estate Planning Council, was a member of the Uniform Law Commission Drafting Committee on Healthcare Decisions Observer, is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Trust and Estates Section and working group on Electronic Wills, is the recipient of AV Preeminent, the highest peer rating from the 140-year old Martindale Hubbell legal organization, is a National Black Lawyers Top 100, a 2017-21 Super Lawyers® Rising Star and 2022-25 Super Lawyer®, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a volunteer faculty member for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), a leading faculty member for New York-based Lawline that provides online CLE for attorneys nationwide, a faculty member of Esquire CLE, ranked “Superb” and a recipient of the Top Contributor in Estate Planning Award from Avvo, a lawyer peer ranking site, and a member of the Association of African American Financial Advisors.

In 2021, Ms. Elliott was inducted into Marquis Who’sWho® in America. For more than a century, Marquis Who’sWho® has chronicled the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every significant field of endeavor, including business, medicine, law, education, art, entertainment, religion, and politics.

From 2014 to 2020, on behalf of her firm, Ms. Elliott also served as General Counsel for the Bernie Mac Foundation, Inc. (“BMF”), a private non-profit foundation started by Bernard J. McCullough (“Bernie Mac”), the late, world-renowned comedian. After Bernie Mac’s death, BMF experienced its most turbulent chapter to-date and to quell that turbulence, Ms. Elliott spearheaded the organization’s restructuring.



Before launching her practice in 2011, Ms. Elliott was a law clerk in a small tax law firm, assisting the principal in probate, domestic relations, corporate records, and non-profit corporation compliance.

Ms. Elliott graduated from DePaul University College of Law and, while there, she co-founded, as Co-Editor-In-Chief, the former *DePaul Journal of Women, Gender and the Law*, the first legal journal in Illinois dedicated to women and gender legal issues. The publication later folded into the Journal for Social Justice. She also served for 2 years as Editor of DePaul's public interest law newsletter, "The Advocate."

In addition to her legal experience, Ms. Elliott has more than 20 years of non-legal experience, including several years' employment in the American Bar Association's former International Liaison Office and, before that, several years in Fortune 500 companies, including a former "Big 8 Accounting Firm" and a leading international management consulting firm.

Throughout her career, Ms. Elliott has also assisted entrepreneurs in creating viable business planning solutions, such as creating and implementing marketing and strategic operations plans, securing capital, and establishing business succession goals.

Ms. Elliott has received numerous awards, starting in law school and continuing through her legal career, for her commitment to advocating for the rights of marginalized individuals and communities.

Besides her blog started in 2011, "The Lotus Rules," (formerly, "The Shark Free Zone"), Ms. Elliott's publications include "Improving Afghanistan Maternal Mortality Rates despite the Lack of the Rule of Law," International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) Human Rights and Rule of Law Review, Fall 2010; "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: What the Reversal of U.S. Asylum Law Means to Advocates and Women Asylum Seekers," The Women's Advocate, Fall 2009; and "Catching Up with International Criminals in the Twenty-First Century: Modifying and Accelerating U.S. Extradition," White Paper, Library of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda, Spring 2009. Ms. Elliott is also the author of the non-fiction book, "Ms. Thang, Real Knights Don't Show Up at 3 in the Morning," published by Pocket Books, a Division of Simon & Schuster.

#### **Presentations (Chronological Order Most Recent to Oldest)**

- *Pitfalls, Benefits, and Risks Lawyers Face When Using Generative AI*
- *Artificial Intelligence – Ethics and Best Practices for Lawyers and Law Firms*
- *Helping Preserve and Create Wealth for Today's Families*
- *Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts (GRATs)*
- *Planning for 2026 and Beyond: Smaldino, GRATs, and QPRTs*
- *LGBTQ+ Estate Planning and Related Rights under the Current Supreme Court*
- *Craft Your Legacy: Estate Planning*
- *Generative AI in Estate Planning*
- *Estate Planning for Generational Wealth*
- *Intestate Administration: It Might Just Kill You*
- *Haters & Big Spenders: Drafting Trusts for Challenging Family Dynamics*
- *Estate Planning for Multinational Families: Citizenship, Choice of Laws, and Cultural Issues*

- *Economic Legacies and Estate Planning*
- *LGBTQ+ Rights in Light of the Current Political Climate*
- *Mighty Powers of Appointment: How They Create Dynastic Legacies*
- *Lawyers Who Care*
- *National Estate Planning Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Estate Planning*
- *Drafting Wills for Challenging Family Dynamics*
- *Estate Planning for LGBTQ+ Families and Individuals in the Dramatists Guild*
- *Sustaining Growth Post-COVID for Small Businesses*
- *Post-Death Estate Administration: Real Property, Closely Held (Family Businesses), Simultaneous Death, and Special Assets*
- *LGBTQ Estate Planning and Related Rights under the Current Supreme Court*
- *How to Advocate for LGBTQ Families Using Tax & Estate Planning*
- *Powers of Attorney: What You Should Know but Don't*
- *Estate Planning and Administration for Unconventional Assets: Digital Currency, Frequent Flier Miles, and SpaceX Reservations*
- *20 Practice Tips to Wow Your Smallbiz Clients*
- *12 Estate Planning Tips for Generational Planning*
- *Virtual Estate Planning: Digital Currency & Posthumous Children*
- *Preventing Disasters: Estate Planning for Older, Unmarried, LGBTQ Couples in Illinois*
- *Future Planning: Cryptocurrency, Cryonics & Posthumously Conceived Children*
- *Planning Family-Owned Businesses: Avoiding Earthquakes and Landslides while Building Legacies*
- *Diversity Matters: In/Tolerance Tales from the Solo/Small Firm Trenches*
- *How to Incorporate Estate Planning into Your Offering: The Silver Tsunami, Planning Trends, and Estate Planning Myths*
- *Avoiding the ARDC Checkmate: The Ethical Difficulties of Lawyers Functioning in Dual Roles*
- *Professional Wills and Advanced Directives for the Solo/Small Firm Practitioner*
- *Working in a Solo Small Firm Practice Environment*
- *Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation Considerations*
- *The Lottery & Estate Planning for Elders: You Don't Need A Ticket to Win*
- *What if I Am Neither: Estate Planning for the Transgender and Queer Community*
- *Estate Planning for LGBTQ Couples: Legal Changes in Plain English, Part Deux*
- *Estate Planning for LGBTQ Couples: Legal Changes in Plain English*
- *Celebrating Black History Month: The Essence of the African American Community and the Law*
- *Tax and Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples*
- *The Silver Tsunami: Are You Prepared? (Estate Planning for Baby Boomers & Their Families)*
- *Fundamental Estate Planning Documents for Today's Families*
- *Succession Planning for Attorneys*
- *Basic Estate Planning Is an Oxymoron*
- *Fundamental Estate Planning Documents for Same-Sex Couples*
- *Changes in the Estate Planning Landscape in Light of the Illinois Civil Union*
- *Basic and Intermediate Estate Planning Fundamentals*
- *Marriage Equality, Hot Topics in Family Law*
- *LGBT Employment and Relationship Rights*

- *Estate Planning and the Illinois Civil Union*

**Legal Affiliations**

- American Bar Association Fellows
- American Bar Association, Real Property, Trusts and Estates Section
- Association of Black Estate Planning Professionals
- Black Women's Bar Association of Greater Chicago
- Chicago Bar Association Trust Law Executive Committee
- Chicago Estate Planning Council, Program Committee
- Illinois State Bar Association

**Related Professional Associations**

- Association of African American Financial Advisors

**Community Support**

- Chicago Women's Health Center
- Stonewall Legacy Project
- Marillac-St. Vincent Family Services
- MetroSquash

**Education**

DePaul University College of Law, International Law

Northwestern University, Political Science, International Relations