

Helen Cheng, Esq.

Bio

Helen is a partner in the private client and tax team and is the Office Managing Director of the San Diego office.

She is a trusts and estates attorney who focuses on exempt organizations and international tax planning for inbound and outbound transactions. She assists clients in all aspects of estate planning, estate and trust administration and charitable planning.

Helen brings a diversity of experience to her clients. After graduating from Stanford Law School, she practiced international corporate tax law in China and California where she worked with multinational corporations, such as Oracle, Intel and Seagate, on sophisticated international tax planning techniques. Helen is also certified as a specialist in estate planning, trust, and probate law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

Previously, Helen worked at the San Diego Zoo to create its licensing and technology transfer program. She was directly responsible for the creation of the San Diego Zoo Global Centre for Bioinspiration and worked with companies such as Procter & Gamble, WD-40, Nike and Qualcomm to develop technologies inspired by nature.

Helen has been on faculty at the UC Irvine School of Law, where she has taught Charitable Planning and Tax Exempt Organizations. Helen is co-chair of the ABA's Real Property and Trust & Estate Law, Legislative and Regulatory Issues Committee. She is on the planning committee for the Western Conference on Tax Exempt Organizations, and currently serves as chair of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners San Diego Branch (STEP SD) and on the STEP USA board of directors. She also serves as general counsel for the International Community Foundation.

Achievements

Helen is recognized as a Leader of Influence in Law by San Diego Business Journal for 2024. Helen has been recognized in the 2026 Chambers High Net Worth Guide for Private Wealth Law. She is also recognized as a Next Generation Partner for Private Wealth Law in the 2026 Legal 500 US Private Client Guide. She is a recommended lawyer in the Legal 500 US 2024 and 2025 guides in the area of Not-for-Profit Tax and as a Best Lawyers 'One to Watch' since 2022.