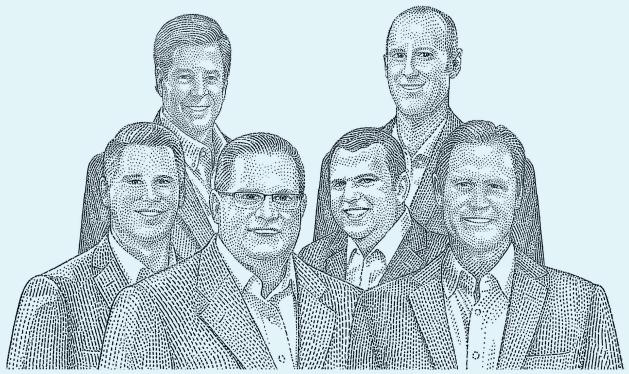


# What are some effective strategies to transfer wealth to my next generation?

BY MICHAEL KROL, CFP®, CPA



Clockwise, from top right: Matthew Helfrich, John Waldron, Benjamin Greenfeld, Chris Roe, Michael Krol, Jim Mendelson

# WALDRON PRIVATE WEALTH

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### **TEAM**

**John Waldron**, CFP<sup>®</sup>, Founder, Chief Executive Officer

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Jim Mendelson, Managing Director

Michael Krol, CFP®, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Service Officer

Chris Roe, CPA/PFS, Managing Director

# FINANCIAL SERVICES EXPERIENCE

112+ years (combined)

# ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

\$1.2 billion (as of 12/31/2015)

# MINIMUM FEE FOR INITIAL MEETING

None required

# MINIMUM NET WORTH REQUIREMENT

2 million

## LARGEST CLIENT NET WORTH

Confidential

# COMPENSATION METHOD

Asset-based (investment services), hourly and fixed fees

# PRIMARY CUSTODIANS FOR INVESTOR ASSETS

Fidelity Family Office Services and Pershing

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Planning and investment-advisory services

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ue to the complexity of the income and estate tax code, passing assets to future generations is not as straightforward as it may appear.

The first thing to consider when planning to pass assets on to your next generation, is what your goals are. Some of the more common goals among wealthy families include: maximizing your wealth transfer to the next generation, protecting your heirs from creditors, controlling assets, avoiding or limiting estate taxes and incorporating charitable efforts.

There are many different estateplanning strategies that can be implemented, depending on your goals. The following are some effective techniques we've employed to support many of these objectives:

# 1. ANNUAL GIFTING

This is one of the simplest ways to pass wealth on to your next generation. Each individual may gift up to \$14,000 annually to each heir; for married couples, this would equate to \$28,000 per year. There is no gift tax return required,

and for larger families, this strategy can result in a large transfer of wealth over time. This is a great strategy for families who are looking for a simple way to move assets to their next generation, and are not worried about controlling assets or protecting the assets from creditors.

growth and the interest rate is what will remain outside of the estate. One additional benefit to this strategy is that all taxes are paid by the person or entity loaning the assets to the trust. This results in allowing the assets outside of your taxable estate to grow, in essence, income tax free, while also

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# 2. IRREVOCABLE LIFE INSURANCE TRUST (ILIT)

This strategy was very common when the lifetime exclusion was low, and many individuals found themselves in an estate tax situation where liquidity would be needed to pay the estate tax. With an ILIT, you obtain a life insurance policy, with the owner being a trust outside of your taxable estate. Each year, you gift premiums to the trust to pay for the policy. Upon your death, the death benefit of the policy is paid out in trust, and avoids any income or estate taxes. An ILIT accomplishes the goals of protecting assets from creditors, allowing some control over the assets and avoiding estate taxes.

# 3. GRANTOR RETAINED ANNUITY TRUSTS (GRATS)

A GRAT is an estate-planning strategy that is a little more complicated, and is used to "freeze" an estate. What this means, is that you try to place most of the future growth of certain assets outside of your taxable estate. The strategy involves choosing assets that have high growth potential or present a valuation discount, and aims to earn more than the interest rate set by the government. The difference between the

reducing the assets in your taxable estate. You therefore gain the equivalent of a free gift to the trust. A GRAT accomplishes the goals of protecting assets from creditors, avoiding estate taxes and securing control of asset distributions via trust documents.

There are many estate-planning strategies that will help transfer assets to your next generation effectively. To determine the best strategy for your situation, you should first identify the goals you have for your assets. The next step is to work with a trusted advisor to develop a comprehensive plan to help achieve your wealth-transfer goals.

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◆ ABOUT US ■

ALDRON PRIVATE WEALTH IS A BOUTIQUE PRIVATE WEALTH-MANAGEMENT FIRM THAT ADVISES A SELECT GROUP OF HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND FAMILY OFFICES. By limiting the number of clients it serves, Waldron can offer greater focus on how to best simplify the complexities of significant wealth, so all clients can achieve what's important in their lives. Waldron's advisory team is prepared to serve the firm's clients across a wide range of key financial disciplines. The advisory team includes: three CPAs, ten CFPs, two CFAs, an attorney, a certified divorce financial analyst and a certificate holder from the Institute for Preparing Heirs.



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