Bacon Wilson
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Gina M. Barry

SHAREHOLDER

"I focus my practice on helping people plan for the future. Even young people should start thinking about how they will support themselves in their retirement years, and everybody needs a basic estate plan, including a will, health care proxy and power of attorney. I am down to earth, and I pride myself on making difficult and complex issues easy to understand for my clients. I have a broad client base including a mix of ages, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations."

Gina is a partner and a member of the estate planning and elder law department, whose practice includes sophisticated estate planning issues. Gina also has extensive experience in matters of guardianship, conservatorship, long-term care planning, estate/probate administration, and residential real estate.

Practice Areas

- Estate Planning and Elder Law
- Estate/Probate Administration
- Residential Real Estate

Locations

- Springfield
- Northampton

Education

Western New England University School of Law
Springfield, Massachusetts
J.D. – 1999
Honors: *cum laude*

Westfield State College
Westfield, Massachusetts
B.A. – 1996
Honors: *magna cum laude*

Holyoke Community College
Holyoke, Massachusetts
A.A. – 1994
Honors: High Honors

Bar Admission

- Massachusetts, 1999
- Connecticut
- U.S. District Court District of Massachusetts

Pro-Bono Activities

- President and Founder, The Joy of Jasper Horse Sanctuary

Classes and Seminars

- Seminar Presenter: "Mastering Trusts: From Alphabet Soup to Strategic Planning," MassNAELA Elder Law Institute, May 2, 2025
- Seminar: Protecting Assets from Long-Term Care, July 25, 2024
- Seminar: "Taking Control of Your Future," Ludlow Senior Center, April 17, 2024
- Seminar: Trusts and Estate Planning For Your Loved Ones, Keystone Commons Assisted Living Facility, January 29, 2024
- Speaker: "Integrating Tax-Savvy Charitable Giving Strategies in your Long-Term Estate Plans," HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, December 1, 2023
- Seminar: The Probate Process From Start to Finish, October 28, 2013
- Seminar: Estate planning questions and answers, October 21, 2013
- Seminar: Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup, May 18, 2011
- Seminar: The Importance of Designating a Health Care Proxy Before You Need it, May 4, 2011
- Seminar: Estate Planning Basics, July 29, 2010
- Seminar: Paralegal Course: The UPC in Action – The Guardianship and Conservatorship Process & Preview of the 2011 Probate Changes, June 17, 2010
- Seminar: Pet Estate Planning, February 4, 2010
- Seminar: Demystifying the Emerging Treatment & Law of Eldercare, December 9, 2009
- Seminar: Staying in Control: Understanding Massachusetts' New Guardianship Laws, November 16, 2009
- Seminar: When It's All Going to the Dogs: A Primer on the Emerging Trend of Pet Trusts and Estate Planning, November 15, 2009
- Seminar: Drafting the Simple Will, November 10, 2009
- Contributor: Estate Planning Bits
- Quoted: And to My Dear Woofy... Estate Planning, Bank Investment Consultant, July 2008
- Guest on NPR discussing Leona Helmsley's $12M bequest to her dog, August 29, 2007
- Speaker: Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy, Central High School, May 2007
- Lecturer: The A-Z's Of Real Property Issues, Suffolk University Law School, March 2007
- Guest: WWLP TV Senior Showcase, 11/03
- Court-Certified GAL Training for Category D Matters, MCLE, November 2002

Professional Associations

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Hampden County Bar Association
- Estate Planning Council of Hampden County
- Connecticut Bar Association
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

- Hampden County Bar Association, New Lawyer's Section, Chair, 2003 to 2004
- Hampden County Bar Association, New Lawyer's Section, Probate Court Bench Bar Liaison, 2003 to 2004
- Holyoke North Business Network International, Membership Committee
- Women's Partnership Communications Committee, Co-Chair
- Women's Partnership Board of Directors, 2003 to 2005
- Joy of Jasper Horse Sanctuary, Founder, 2007-Present
- Greater Springfield Business & Professional Women's Club, First Vice President, 2005-2006
- Greater Springfield Business & Professional Women's Club, Second Vice President, 2004-2005
- Western Massachusetts Elder Care Professionals, Member, Steering Committee
- Meadows Homes Human Rights Committee, Member
- Women's Business Owners Alliance of the Pioneer Valley, Inc., Cheryl Reed Memorial Loan Fund Chair
- National Association of Elder Law Attorneys, Director, 2018 to Present
- Western Massachusetts Elder Care Professionals Steering Committee, Member
- President-Elect of MassNAELA, 2025

Honors

- Designated as "Super Lawyer" 2013 in Boston Magazine
- Distinguished: Top Woman Attorney in MA by Super Lawyers Rising Stars, 2012
- Recipient: Super Lawyers Rising Star Award Boston Magazine, 2012
- Recipient: Super Lawyers Rising Star Award Boston Magazine, 2011
- Recipient: Chapter Member of the Year, BNI Holyoke North, MA, 10/13/2011
- Designated as "Super Lawyer Rising Star" 2010 in Boston Magazine
- Recipient: Top Five Businesswomen in Western Mass, Western MA Women's Magazine, 2010
- Recipient: SuperLawyers Rising Star Award Boston Magazine
- Estate Planning Specialist Blends Law with a Passion for Animals, BusinessWest, October 20, 2005
- Women in Business Spotlight, Valley Business Outlook, September 2005
- "Woman of the Year" distinction, Women Business Owners Alliance, 2005
- "Up and Coming Lawyer 2004" distinction, MA Lawyers Weekly, 2004
- Catherine Bean Street Scholarship, Recipient
- CALI Award for Excellence in Torts
- CALI Award for Excellence in Critical Race Theory
- "Lawyer of the Year" for Springfield Elder Law, Best Lawyers, 2019
- Designated as 2015's Woman of Influence by Women Business Owners Alliance
- Distinguished Alumni for 2015, Holyoke Community College
- Recipient, First Annual Visionary Achievement Award from Western Mass Women's Magazine, 2014
- Recipient, SuperLawyers Massachusetts and New England Award, 2013-2019
- Recipient, SuperLawyers Massachusetts and New England Rising Star Award, 2006-2008, 2010-2012

- Designated as one of the Top Five Businesswomen in Western Mass, Western Mass Women's Magazine, 2010
- Recipient, 40 Under Forty award, BusinessWest, 2009
- Recognized for contributions in "Elder and Disability Law in Massachusetts," earned top honors from ACLEA, 2025

Past Positions

- Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court, Law Clerk, 1999 to 2000

Fraternities or Sororities

- Pi Sigma Alpha
- Alpha Chi

Published Works

- Aging Life Care Professionals®: Trusted Guides for Navigating Later Life Prime, April 2026
- Choosing a Cause That Matters: Making the Most of Charitable Giving, Prime, December 2025
- Dispelling Estate Planning Myths Prime, October, 2025
- The Life Estate Deed – One Option for Protecting Your Home Prime, July, 2025
- Planning for Long-Term Care Prime, April, 2025
- Ethical Wills Prime, January, 2025
- Charitable Giving Benefits You Too, Prime, December 2024
- Planning After the Diagnosis, Prime, November 2024
- Plan Now for Your Partners Sake, Prime, October 2024
- Establish an Estate Plan Before Your Trip, Prime, July 2024
- Protect Your Home with a Declaration of Homestead, Prime, May 2024
- Recognizing Abuse of Older People, Prime, April 2024
- Wills vs. Trusts – Which is right for you?, Prime, February 2024
- The Four Basic Estate Planning Documents, Prime, January 2024
- You Can't Take it With You, Prime, December 2023
- Estate Tax Update, Prime, November, 2023
- Avoiding Caregiver Stress, Prime, October, 2023
- Planning for Long-Term Care, Prime, September, 2023
- Estate Planning Concerns for Women, Prime, August, 2023
- Special Needs Require Special Planning, Prime, July, 2023
- Establish an Estate Plan Before Your Trip, Prime, June, 2023
- Ensuring Your End of Life Wishes Are Honored, Prime, May, 2023
- Estate Planning Considerations for Men, Prime, April, 2023
- Good Grief, Prime, March, 2023
- Blended Families, Prime, February, 2023
- 'Tis the Season… to Review Your Estate Plan, Prime, January, 2023

- You Can't Take it With You, Prime, December 2022
- Dispelling Estate Planning Myths, Prime, November, 2022
- Using Trusts to Reduce Massachusetts Estate Taxes for Married Couples, Prime, October, 2022
- Be Smart About Helping Your Grandchildren With College Expenses, Prime, September, 2022
- Estate Planning for Your Pet, Prime, August, 2022
- The Life Estate Deed: One Option for Protecting Your Home, Prime, July, 2022
- Things to Know When Your Child is Also Your Caregiver, Prime, June, 2022
- Veteran's Benefits: A Primer on Pensions, Prime, May, 2022
- Staying at home: Considerations for elders and their caregivers, Prime, April, 2022
- Plan Now For Your Partner's Sake, Prime, March, 2022
- Recognizing Elder Abuse, Prime, February, 2022
- Taking the Guesswork Out of Choosing an Attorney, Prime, January, 2022
- You Can't Take it With You… Consider Charity in Your Final Plans, Prime, December, 2021
- Where There's a Will, There's an Heir, Prime, November 2021
- Special Needs Require Special Planning, Prime, October, 2021
- Moving Forward with a Reverse Mortgage, Prime, September, 2021
- Ethical Wills: Bequeathing Life's Lessons, Prime, August, 2021
- Planning for Long Term Care, Prime, July, 2021
- Establish an Estate Plan Before Your Trip, Prime, June, 2021
- Just two documents: These tools help smooth crucial decisions, Prime, May, 2021
- The IDIOT Trust: A tool to protect assets from nursing home costs, Prime, April, 2021
- Collector's Primer: planning for the continuation of your cache, Prime, March, 2021
- The family business: Ensuring a smooth transition when it's time, Prime, February, 2021
- Reviewing your estate plan: It's a New Year's resolution that's easy to keep, Prime, January, 2021
- Year-end tax planning: COVID-19 has tweaked some approaches, Prime, December, 2020
- The special needs trust: Why it's important to plan ahead, Prime, November, 2020
- Charitable giving: You can still do good in a time of uncertainty, Prime, October, 2020
- Will vs. Trust: Deciding which is right for your estate, Prime, September, 2020
- Good grief: Plan now to lessen the burden on loved ones, Prime, August, 2020
- Caregiver stress: Could this become the next epidemic?, Prime, June, 2020
- A Pandemic Estate Plan, BusinessWest, April 13, 2020
- For the love of your partner include these documents in your estate, Prime, February 1, 2020
- Your estate plan: January's a great time for an annual review, Prime, January 1, 2020
- Holiday season tax planning: Make the time to consider your options, Prime, December 1, 2019
- Long term care: Strategies to plan for the costs, Prime, November 1, 2019
- Givers Gain: Use charitable giving to your advantage, Prime, October, 2019
- Estate planning myths: know the facts to avoid these pitfalls, Prime, September, 2019
- Are you a collector? Make a plan now to provide for its future, Prime, August, 2019
- The Homestead Declaration: Simple protection for your most valuable asset, Prime, July, 2019
- Keeping the Court Out of Your Decisions, Prime, June 1, 2019
- Creating an estate plan for a beloved pet, Prime, May 1, 2019
- Women—plan for financial independence, Prime, April 1, 2019
- Ethical wills—bequeathing life's lessons, Prime, March 1, 2019
- The reverse mortgage—is it for you?, Prime, February 1, 2019

- Resolve to review your estate plan, Prime, January 1, 2019
- It's Not Too Late to Make a Tax Plan, Prime, December 1, 2018
- Your Estate: Do You Need A Trust?, Prime, November 1, 2018
- Digital Assets and Your Estate Plan, Prime, October 1, 2018
- When Your Child is Also Your Caregiver, Prime, September 1, 2018
- Helping the Grandkids with College Costs, Prime, August 1, 2018
- Put Estate Planning on Your Travel Checklist, Prime, July 1, 2018
- Caregiver Stress—the Next Epidemic?, Prime, June 1, 2018
- Giving Them the Business? Make a Plan, Prime, May 1, 2018
- Special Needs Require Special Planning, Prime, April 1, 2018
- Caring long distance—a practical checklist, Prime, March 1, 2018
- For the love of your partner, plan now, Prime, February 1, 2018
- Resolve to review your estate plan, Prime, January 1, 2018
- It's not too late to slash your tax bill, Prime, December 1, 2017
- Givers gain – charity and your taxes, Prime, November 1, 2017
- The Life Estate Deed – one home protection option, Prime, October 1, 2017
- The truth about the 'gift tax', Prime, September 1, 2017