



Lee Carpenter

Principal

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Lee Carpenter is a principal attorney in the firm's Estates and Trusts Practice Group and has extensive experience with estate planning, probate, and trust administration. He strives to create a welcoming environment where clients of all backgrounds can feel comfortable discussing their legal needs. Through active listening, creative problem-solving, and a light sense of humor, he helps untangle complex legal matters while putting clients at ease.

Lee prepares comprehensive estate plans using wills, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, real estate deeds, and other planning tools. He may also create trusts to help avoid probate, minimize estate taxes, provide for young children, or care for someone with special needs. When someone has died, Lee can help navigate the complexities of the probate process and trust administration, acting as either the attorney or personal representative/trustee. For couples considering marriage, Lee explains the legal benefits of tying the knot, and the potential drawbacks. He can also suggest steps to take in connection with getting married, such as preparing a prenuptial agreement.

Lee's practice includes a special emphasis on the unique needs of same-sex couples and other members of the LGBTQ+ community. As an active member of the community himself, he has testified before the Maryland General Assembly in favor of pro-LGBTQ+ legislation. Lee is also a *pro bono* attorney at FreeState Justice, a Maryland nonprofit that advocates on behalf of the state's LGBTQ+ residents.

For several years, Lee has taught Estates & Trusts at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law as an adjunct professor. He is a frequent author and lecturer on topics related to estate planning and LGBTQ+ law.

Education

- University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (J.D.)
 - Editor in Chief, Journal of Business & Technology Law
- University of Maryland University College (B.A., *cum laude*)

Services

- Estates and Trusts
- LGBTQIA+

State Bar Admissions

- Maryland

Professional Affiliations

- Maryland State Bar Association
 - Section of Estate and Trust Law
 - LGBTQ Bar Association
- FreeState Justice Board of Directors (2019 - 2025) and *pro bono* attorney
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Planned Giving Advisory Council, Chair
- Baltimore Estate Planning Council Board of Directors, 2020–2023

Recognitions

- Accredited Estate Planner® (AEP®) designation from the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils
- Rising Star, MCCA, 2025
- Estate and Trust Law Power List, *The Daily Record*, 2025
- The Baltimore Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Recognition Society
- Baltimore Magazine Top Lawyer, 2026

Publications & News

January 9, 2026

Two Offit Kurman Attorneys Named Baltimore Magazine Top Lawyers for 2026

July 9, 2025

Offit Kurman Principal Lee Carpenter Named a 2025 MCCA Rising Star

June 16, 2025

Pride—An Old Tradition with New Urgency

March 28, 2025

Lee Carpenter Named to Daily Record's 2025 Estate and Trust Law Power List

January 3, 2025

Lee Carpenter Quoted in Baltimore Banner on LGBTQ+ Rights Under Incoming Trump Presidency

October 3, 2024

Offit Kurman Attorney Lee Carpenter to Present at the University System of Maryland Wills Week Virtual Conference

August 8, 2024

Lee Carpenter Featured in The Baltimore Banner

April 15, 2024

Lee Carpenter to Join Baltimore Estate Planning Council DEI Committee Panel

October 17, 2023

Lee Carpenter to Speak for Estate Planning Awareness Week at Estate Planning Seminar

September 18, 2023

Lee Carpenter Quoted in The Baltimore Banner on Legal Protections Available to LGBTQ Individuals

September 12, 2023

Lee Carpenter Published in Washington Blade on Unmarried Couples' Inheritance Rights in Maryland

July 20, 2023

Accomplished Attorney Lee Carpenter Joins Offit Kurman's Estates and Trusts Practice

August 1, 2022

Lee Carpenter to Speak for "State of the LGBTQ+ Community"

June 10, 2021

Lee Carpenter to Speak at the MSBA 2021 Legal Summit

Blog Posts

July 9, 2026

Estate Planning Essentials for Maryland's Unmarried Couples

A shared home, shared finances, and years of mutual commitment may look indistinguishable from a legal marriage. In the eyes of the law, however, the differences can become apparent at exactly the moment when legal protections matter most. For more than...

June 23, 2026

Where There's a Will — or a Trust — There's a Way: A Practical Guide to Choosing the Right Estate Plan

Should you have a revocable trust or a simple will? As an Estates & Trusts attorney, this is one of the most common estate-planning questions I hear. For most Maryland residents, a simple will is perfectly adequate. A will...

June 3, 2026

Mind the Gap: Naming an "In-Between" Guardian for Your Minor Children

Even the best estate plans can leave an unintended gap. For parents of minor children, that gap may arise between a parent's death or incapacity and the court's formal appointment of a guardian. During that in-between period, it may...

April 15, 2026

LGBTQ+ Estate Planning —A Tale of Two Couples

Chris and Jason would never leave anything to chance. They ordered their movie tickets online in case the show sold out before they got to the theater. They always bought travel insurance, on the off chance their vacation plans didn't pan out. They flossed daily, replaced smoke-detector batteries annually, and changed their furnace filters every six

months. Their friends Bill and Trevor often teased them about being so conscientious. But then Bill and Trevor took...

March 6, 2026

Protecting the Modern Family with Mindful Estate Planning

Early in the show *Modern Family*, we meet a family formed through remarriage, cultural differences, and a significant age gap. When Jay Pritchett marries Gloria Delgado, he becomes stepfather to her sensitive teenage son, Manny. Gloria, in turn,...

October 17, 2025

Protect Your Loved Ones With a Spendthrift Trust

Providing for someone you care about can be one of life's great challenges. You may have a spouse or partner who depends on you financially. Or a relative with money problems who sometimes turns to you for help. Perhaps...

September 29, 2025

Who Gets the Sofa? Dividing Up Your Stuff Without Drama

Benjamin Franklin famously said that the only two certainties in life are death and taxes. A close third would be family squabbles over who gets the personal property when someone dies. Even a well-thought-out estate plan may leave room...

September 11, 2025

Marriage in the Balance: Safeguarding Rights for Same-Sex Couples

The U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark 2015 decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Whether the Court revisits the case now or in the future, the right to same-sex marriage appears...

August 11, 2025

Settling an Estate with Efficiency and Care — Guidance for the Personal Representative

When someone dies, the task of settling the person's estate descends upon the personal representative. Being appointed a personal representative, or "executor," is an honor that includes a broad range of responsibilities. This person must be part administrator, part accountant, and part diplomat! Depending...

July 10, 2025

Ashes to Ashes: Making Your Final Arrangements

William Wordsworth said that the best part of a good man's life is "his little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love." In this spirit, many of us work to fill each page of our life's story with small deeds of compassion and helpfulness. One such deed we might not have considered is planning...

June 23, 2025

Married? Consider Upgrading the Deed to Your House

In 1604, Sir Edward Coke said, "Your house is your safest refuge." Or words to that effect. He was writing in Latin, but the venerable English judge got his point across well enough. The expression has come down to...

June 12, 2025

Insulate Your Marriage From Problems Online

The Greek philosopher Socrates once said, "When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the loser." He was lucky he didn't live in the age of Facebook. Thanks to the vast social network, it has never been...

April 16, 2025

Estate Planning: Peace of Mind for Uncertain Times

In the late 19th century, death was almost fashionable. Funerals were well attended and even rivaled weddings in their splendor and expense. Department stores offered an array of luxury clothing for grieving mothers and widows. Black fabrics were reserved...

November 8, 2024

Defensive Estate Planning For the LGBTQ+ Community

The political landscape has shifted, and those of us in the LGBTQ+ community are worried about what the future may hold. There is a lot to lose, and the new administration promises to be decidedly anti-gay. The rights of...

October 30, 2024

Why Your Estate Plan Might Need a Tune-up

An estate plan is a set of papers that usually includes a will, durable power of attorney, and advance medical directive. These essential documents can help you manage financial and health-related matters if you ever become incapacitated, and they...

October 30, 2024

The Gift of Planning Your Estate

As 2024 draws to a close, the season of giving that rounds out the year will once again be upon us. As you fill your shopping list with festive sweaters, cool electronics, and other treasures, consider planning for the...

October 30, 2024

The Easy Way to Leave Your Car to a Loved One

When someone dies, their car is often the first thing the heirs will ask about. Who gets it, they wonder, and how long will it take to transfer the title? Whether the vehicle in question is a gleaming new...

October 29, 2024

Protecting a Loved One's Benefits With a Special-Needs Trust

Caring for someone with special needs is both a burden and a privilege. Although the challenges can be all-consuming, the rewards are often deeply gratifying. Few of us who don't bear this burden can fully understand the level of...

September 3, 2024

Writing Your Own Epilogue: How Estate Planning Can Shape Your Legacy

William Shakespeare said, "A good play needs no epilogue." When a story is compellingly told, in other words, there is no need for commentary after the curtain falls. Like a play that is well written, a life that is...

May 15, 2024

Should Your Wedding Checklist Include a Prenup?

Fans of The Golden Girls may remember the episode in which Dorothy decides to remarry her ex-husband, Stan. He's the selfish, cheating, novelty salesman Dorothy had married as a teenager in a shotgun wedding. Although they are now divorced,...

March 4, 2024

Four Reasons Your Power of Attorney May be Out of Date

A financial Power of Attorney is an essential document in any estate plan. It enables you to appoint someone you trust to manage your finances and other legal matters in case you

become unable to do so yourself. The...

August 3, 2023

Unmarried Couples Win New Inheritance Rights

For more than a decade, the freedom to marry has been available to Maryland's same-sex couples. Those who have approached the altar, the chuppah, or the courthouse and tied the knot enjoy legal benefits that were denied them as...

April 24, 2023

Can Your Spouse Disinherit You? How Marriage Protects the Family

It's the stuff of low-budget movies. The grieving widow, dressed in black with her face veiled, sits in the attorney's oak-paneled conference room for the reading of the will. Mystery surrounds the proceedings. Who among the family members present...

March 2, 2023

Three Reasons a Lawyer Should Settle Your Estate

When a loved one has died, the shock and sorrow of their loss may quickly lead to another emotional jolt—the prospect of having to settle their estate. Being named personal representative (executor) under someone's will is both an honor...

October 11, 2022

Empower Your Loved Ones with a 'Power of Appointment'

Preparing an estate plan means having a say in what happens to your wealth after you are gone. Through a Last Will and Testament, you can name the important people in your life who will inherit your assets. You...

June 21, 2022

Is Same-Sex Marriage in Jeopardy?

This article has been updated. The Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* has sent abortion-rights advocates reeling. In a 6–3 opinion, the Court ended a constitutional right that was the law of the land for nearly half a...

April 26, 2022

Leaving Little to Chance — A Trust for Your Financial Legacy

Receiving an inheritance can seem like winning the lottery. A financial windfall lands on your doorstep and promises to change your life for the better. But an inheritance and lottery winnings differ in many important ways, starting with the...

Featured Works

Speaking Engagements

- "LGBTQ Estate Planning," Wills Week Virtual Conference hosted by the University System of Maryland, October 25, 2024
- Baltimore Estate Planning Council DEI Committee Panel, hosted by Loyola University, April 17, 2024
- Estate Planning Seminar for Estate Planning Awareness Week, hosted by FreeState Justice and the Baltimore Estate Planning Council, October 18, 2023
- "Working with Members of the LGBTQ Community," Maryland State Bar Association Legal Summit, June 2021

- “Advantageous to All: Simple Strategies for Giving at Year’s End,” Baltimore Symphony Orchestra panel discussion, October 2020
- “Estate Planning for the LGBTQ Community,” MSBA Estates & Trusts Study Group, January 2020
- “Working with the LGBTQ Community,” lunch-and-learn series in Baltimore, Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, and Washington, 2019–2020