

Firm Facts

1964

Established in 1964, Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered was founded by [Mortimer M. Caplin](#) – former Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service during the administrations of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson – and [Douglas D. Drysdale](#) who taught law for several years at the University of Virginia School of Law. Since then, Caplin & Drysdale has been a leading provider of tax, tax controversy, litigation, and related legal services to corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals throughout the United States and around the world.



Caplin & Drysdale has a long history of women in leadership positions. [Patricia Gimbel Lewis](#) was our first female President, serving in that role from 1996 to 1998; current firm President [Beth Shapiro Kaufman](#) was elected to that position in February 2015; and Member [Ann C. McMillan](#) has served as the DC office’s Managing Member since 2010. Moreover, they are also leaders in their respective fields: Ms. Lewis is one of the nation’s preeminent transfer pricing attorneys; Ms. Kaufman is at the top of her field for trust and estate planning, and Ms. McMillan is well-regarded for her work representing trust advisory committees.



We offer legal services to a broad spectrum of clients, including banking institutions, energy companies, nonprofit organizations, sports figures, technology startups, and wealthy individuals. We are also privileged to serve as legal advisors to accounting firms, financial institutions, law firms, and other professional services organizations. Please visit this [link](#) to view a comprehensive list of the industry sectors we serve and the entity types we represent.

30%

of our attorneys have a background in government service, with several serving in senior roles at the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, the Department of Treasury, and the Federal Election Commission. More broadly, C&D attorneys have a tradition of thought leadership in their fields, evidenced by hundreds of significant publications and speaking engagements. Our attorneys tap into their deep reserve of technical skills and insights into how laws are made and administered to assist clients with their most intricate issues.

13

The firm provides legal services in 13 practice areas: [Bankruptcy](#); [Business, Investment & Transactional Tax](#); [Complex Litigation](#); [Corporate Law](#); [Employee Benefits](#); [Exempt Organizations](#); [International Tax](#); [Political Law](#); [Private Client](#); [Tax Controversies](#); [Tax Litigation](#); and [White Collar Defense](#). Our style of practice is aimed at addressing client concerns through our high standards, strong ethics, and attentive client service.



Chambers USA, *Chambers HNW*, *The Legal 500*, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Benchmark Litigation* have named more than 50% of Caplin & Drysdale Members – from a cross-section of the firm’s practice areas – as leaders in their field. In ranking company interviews, clients and peers have praised our attorneys for their work, remarking “They are very responsive to clients and very collaborative in the way they work.”



Several C&D attorneys have held previous roles as in-house counsel at corporations and organizations such as General Electric, the American Cancer Society, and Deutsche Bank. Our attorneys draw on their combined experience in private practice and the government – as well as their academic experience – to better serve our clients’ needs.

60+

Caplin & Drysdale has more than 60 attorneys in our DC and NY offices. By design, we choose to stay a “boutique” law practice to ensure our clients receive immediate and direct access to our most experienced attorneys. This business model allows us to maintain low overhead costs, savings we pass on to our clients in the form of competitive rates, while offering quality legal services. Our boutique practice also means we can staff matters in a nimble and efficient manner.

37%

of Caplin & Drysdale’s attorneys are women. Moreover, 32% of our *shareholders* are women, compared to the legal industry’s average of 18% (Source: 2017 ABA “Women in the Law” survey). At Caplin & Drysdale, we strive to maintain an environment of mutual respect that leverages our diversity for the development and success of our professionals, and to better serve our clients.



19 of our attorneys have served as judicial clerks. From its inception, Caplin & Drysdale has actively recruited attorneys with judicial clerkship experience, which offers young attorneys invaluable experience, training, and opportunity for growth. Moreover, three of our Members clerked for judges in the United States Supreme Court, a prestigious position for which only 36 law school graduates each year are selected.



In *Caplin & Drysdale v. United States* – a U.S. Supreme Court case concerning the forfeiture of attorney fees and the right to counsel – the firm argued that unless assets used to pay an attorney in a criminal case were exempt from a statutory forfeiture action, the statute was an unconstitutional violation of the 6th Amendment. In an oft-cited 5-4 decision now taught to most law students, an opinion by Justice Byron White affirmed the Fourth Circuit’s reversal of an Alexandria, Virginia federal judge, who had sided with the firm.

22%

A number of our attorneys have been or currently are law school professors. Professorships are reserved for the best and the brightest in their field. Law schools where Caplin & Drysdale attorneys teach, include the University of Virginia School of Law (Campaign Finance Regulation), Georgetown University Law Center (Tax Practice & Procedure), Duke University School of Law (Transfer Pricing), University of Miami School of Law (Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax and Criminal Tax), and New York University School of Law (Tax Treaties).