



## John J. Pembroke

Of Counsel | Park Ridge

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### Education

- Northwestern University School of Law J.D., 1979
- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1982
- University of Illinois at Chicago B.S. Accounting, 1975
- CPA, 1976

### Admissions

- Illinois, 1979
- U.S. Supreme Court, 2014
- U.S. District Court Northern District of Illinois, 1979
- U.S. Tax Court, 1981
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 1980

### Memberships

- Chicago Bar

A tax and transactional attorney since 1979, John Pembroke draws on a wealth of experience in serving corporate and individual clients, obviously comfortable in mastering and managing a large body of rules. Centering his practice on taxation and estate and business planning, he has earned over the course of his career a reputation for resolving seemingly intractable controversies by applying novel solutions. John's financial background adds an important dimension to his work in organizing and structuring new businesses, acquisitions, joint ventures, contracts, informal workouts, shareholder disputes and minority buyouts. A licensed certified public accountant for more than 40 years, John has acted on occasion as interim chief financial officer for startups. His accounting background provides him an invaluable perspective when advising on tax, business and financial planning and related matters, either independently or as part of a client's financial planning team. He enjoys helping clients to prepare their gift, estate and income tax returns, both state and federal, and to better plan for optimizing their tax burden.

Of law John says, "I continue to enjoy its intellectual challenge and the notion that each day, clients have pressing issues demanding attention." He takes pleasure in applying the rule of law in a practical manner, striving to give each client an edge or the right answer.

Following brief bouts in business management and accounting, law is his third career. He passed his CPA exam on his first attempt while still a student, and ran his own tax practice during law school, when he conducted an audit for a founding member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Nominated for a Wigmore Scholarship, awarded annually to the graduating student most exemplifying the ideals of Northwestern University's school of law, John served as social chair while there.

A lifelong resident of Illinois, widely traveled, John believes "one of the best places to pursue career and family goals is right here in Cook County, Illinois." Gregarious and personable, he recently ran in the Democratic primary for the Tenth Judicial Cook County Subcircuit vacancy. In a field of meritorious

- Association, Taxation  
Section
- American Bar  
Association, Taxation  
Section

candidates, he did not win, but from the experience gained incomparable exposure to a realm of government unknown to most and participated in a civics lesson few attorneys experience. In endorsing John, longtime client Adlai E. Stevenson III, U.S. Senator from Illinois, said: "I have known John Pembroke as a lawyer and accountant for 14 years. He has a solid record as a professional, undoubted integrity and an agreeable personality and demeanor. Based on my lengthy experience with John, he is a public-spirited citizen who would make a fine Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court."

Married with two children, John is committed to local education and to his own edification. He has taken dozens of continuing education classes over the years, both in law and taxation, often up to 40 hours a year. Beginning in 1999, John pursued various insurance agent licenses and took seminars on securities law and related subjects, culminating in certification as a personal financial specialist (PFS) in 2002. This designation is equivalent to a certified financial planner (CFP), but available only to licensed CPAs; it qualifies each bearer to Illinois licensing as an investment advisor representative.