



John C. Hook

Partner

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With an emphasis on the tax implications of estate planning, John Hook advises high-net-worth individuals, executives, entrepreneurs and owners of closely held businesses on the implementation of gift, income, estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes. He is a frequent speaker in the areas of wills, trusts and estate planning, focusing on reducing or eliminating federal estate taxes.

John also advises charitable organizations on the establishment and operation of planned charitable giving programs, including the formation, development of policies and procedures, corporate governance issues, and types of planned giving documents available to donors.

In addition, John counsels clients in the area of asset protection and the creation of offshore asset-protection vehicles — vital components of estate planning for high-net-worth individuals, executives and entrepreneurs.

A career highlight, John represented a client in a record-setting auction sale of a rare, pre-revolutionary tea table attributed to a craftsman known as the “Garvan carver.” The antique table sold for more than \$6.7 million.

Memberships

- Former Member, Board of Directors, and Co-Chair, Social Committee, Philadelphia Estate Planning Council
- Member, Board of Directors and Development Committee, Catholic Partnership Schools
- Member, American Bar Association, Taxation and Real Property, Probate and Trust Law sections
- Member, Philadelphia Bar Association
- President, Slocum Land Conservancy Inc.

Recognitions

- Distinguished Estate Planner Award, Philadelphia Estate Planning Council (2025)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* (Nonprofit / Charities Law; Trusts and Estates) (2026)

Services

- Trusts, Estates & Private Client
- Religious, Educational & Nonprofit Organizations

Education

- Temple University Beasley School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)
- New York University School of Law (LL.M. in Taxation)
- Temple University (B.B.A., *summa cum laude*)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Tax Court

Experience

Stradley Ronon Represents Maple Donuts in Acquisition by Swander Pace Capital

Stradley Ronon represented Maple Donuts, a Pennsylvania-based manufacturer of frozen bakery products, in its acquisition by Swander Pace Capital, a private equity firm focused on investing across the food and beverage industry. The transaction closed on May 30, 2025; the value was undisclosed.

The acquisition will allow Maple Donuts to further expand product offerings and enhance production capabilities.

The Stradley Ronon team was led by Tom Ix and Steve Scolari, with John Hook, Megan Stamm, Rich Peterson, Jon Bloom, Chris Rosenbleeth and Andrew Barron.

For more information, visit Swander Pace Capital's website.

Eleventh Circuit Affirms Trademark Ruling for Nutritional Products Company

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed a lower court's decision on behalf of Stradley Ronon client Nutrition Resource Services, Inc. d/b/a JBN – Just Be Natural in a trademark infringement matter.

JBN manufactures and sells energy drinks and powders under various brand names, including "KRANK'D," which obtained a trademark registration in 2006. A competitor began selling a similar product under the brand name "KRANK3D" and proceeded to market the product to the same consumers as JBN's product.

Stradley Ronon filed preliminary injunction motion papers and argued the motion at an emergency hearing in February 2024. A Georgia federal court granted the injunction, and a three-judge panel affirmed the lower court's ruling.