

2008
Legal
ELITE

TAXES/TRUSTS/ESTATES

John W. Flora
Lenhart Obenshain PC
Harrisonburg

Title: Shareholder

Other legal specialties: Business and agricultural law

Birth date: April 6, 1954

Education: Bachelor's degree in philosophy, College of William & Mary, 1977; law degree, 1980, master of law in taxation, 1981, Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William & Mary

Current professional pursuits: Serves on the Community Tax Law Project

Family: Wife: Jan; children: Mark, 24, Casey, 22, and Scott, 20

Hobbies: Exercise, yard work, skiing and watching sports events

Previous employer: Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver

Fan of: Penn State football, North Carolina basketball, Los Angeles Dodgers, Pittsburgh Steelers

Favorite vacation spot: North Carolina's Outer Banks

Recently read: "Broken Trust" by Randall Roth

Mentor in career: "My father, who was a minister, taught me to know your audience when writing or speaking and do not try to impress but try to enhance understanding. My mother, a teacher, taught me perseverance and a portion of her perfectionism. Phil Stone, Skip Roberts, George Aldhizer and Jim Keeler, who were my law partners, taught me a variety of legal, people, counseling and professional skills."

If you could change one thing in the federal tax code that would benefit your practice, what would it be?

"I would encourage Congress to increase the IRS budget to enhance service through better-paid and incentivized staff and executives. A voluntary tax system will fail when not only taxpayers, but also their representatives, become frustrated by poor service exemplified by unsigned letters that have no personal contact information on the letter. There is no accountability when there is almost no chance the recipient of your letter can find you."

