

STEPHEN AKERS

Steve R. Akers is an attorney with 46 years of experience in estate planning and probate law matters. Mr. Akers is a managing director at Bessemer Trust, where he directs the family estate planning practice for the Southwest Region and is Senior Fiduciary Counsel and Chair of the Estate Planning Committee. He was previously a partner with Ernst & Young, LLP (1995-2001) and with Jenkins & Gilchrist, PC (1977-1995).

Mr. Akers is a past president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He has previously served in a variety of roles with ACTEC including as Regent, Long Range Planning Committee, Chair of the Business Planning Committee, and Editor of the ACTEC Law Journal. Mr. Akers is also a past chair of the American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law.

Mr. Akers is a past chair of the Texas State Bar Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section and of the Dallas Bar Association Probate, Trusts, and Estates Section. He has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Dallas Estate Planning Council. He is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He has previously served as a member of the National Conference of Lawyers and Corporate Fiduciaries (sponsored by the American Bar Association and the American Bankers Association).

Mr. Akers has received the Distinguished Accredited Estate Planner Award from the National Association of Estate Planning Councils, the Distinguished Probate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dallas Bar Association Probate, Trusts & Estates Section.

Mr. Akers is a member of the Advisory Committee to the University of Miami Philip E. Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning (held annually in Orlando), and he has spoken at that Institute on various occasions. Mr. Akers has lectured on various estate planning, estate administration, and family business planning topics a wide variety of seminars and national, state, and local organizations.

Mr. Akers received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Oklahoma State University (1974) and his J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law (1977).