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2023 Inflation Adjustments Provide Opportunity for Gifting

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On October 18, 2022, the Internal Revenue Service released the 2023 lifetime gift, estate tax and generation-skipping transfer ("GST") tax exemption amounts, which are adjusted annually for inflation. The amount that a person can gift tax-free during his or her life (or at his or her death) will increase from the 2022 figure of \$12,060,000 (or \$24,120,000 per married couple) to \$12,920,000 (or \$25,840,000 per married couple) in 2023. Even if you have previously exhausted your lifetime tax-free gifting, this increase in exemption for 2023 (\$860,000 per person or \$1,720,000 per married couple) provides significant gifting opportunities, particularly for individuals who have assets that can be gifted at a discount (e.g., private investments, private equity interests, family LPs or LLCs).

The annual exclusion from gift tax (the amount that you may give each year to as many other individuals as you choose without using your gift exemption or incurring a gift tax) is also increasing, from \$16,000 (\$32,000 per married couple) in 2022 to \$17,000 (\$34,000 per married couple) in 2023.

While the current inflationary environment has certainly created economic pains, it, along with the tax law changes enacted in 2017, has also resulted in an historic high in the amount that can be gifted free of gift and GST taxes. (In comparison, the exemption amount in 2017 was \$5,490,000 per person.) However, the time to take advantage of these increased exemption amounts is limited; absent action from Congress, the current exemption levels will decrease by approximately one-half at the end of 2025.

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If you are interested in discussing your gifting opportunities, please reach out.

If you have any questions regarding this client alert, please contact the following attorneys or the Willkie attorney with whom you regularly work.

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