

## American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) Fellow

March 15, 2013

The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), an elite association of highly-credentialed trust and estate lawyers, elected Patrick K. Costello a Fellow during its annual meeting last week.

Mr. Costello is a partner of Costello, Carlson & Butzon, LLP, in Lakefield. His core legal practice is in agricultural estate administration with an emphasis on estate taxation and succession planning. Mr. Costello is the president-elect of the American Agricultural Law Association has held numerous leadership positions in the state bar association and is a contributor to continuing legal education on a national level. He is a director of the Minnesota State Bar Foundation.

The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel is an organization of approximately 2,600 lawyers elected to membership by demonstrating the highest level of integrity, commitment to the profession, competency and experience as trust and estate lawyers. One of the central purposes of ACTEC is to study and improve trust, estate and tax laws, procedures and professional responsibility.

All ACTEC members have made substantial contributions to the field of trusts and estates law through writing, teaching and bar leadership activities.

ACTEC members advise clients or teach in one or more of the following areas: planning for the orderly and tax efficient transfer of wealth during life and after death and preparing all related estate planning documents; administering trusts, decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships and other family entities; planning for incapacity and elder concerns; planning charitable gifts and advising exempt organizations; and handling tax controversy and fiduciary litigation.

Membership in ACTEC is by election of the regents of the College. Lawyers meeting the criteria are nominated by fellows of the College, and subjected to review by both state and national membership selection committees, prior to consideration by the regents of the College. Applications for membership are not accepted by the College.

During their annual meeting, the regents elected 25 new ACTEC fellows from fifteen states. There are sixty-five members in Minnesota. Mr. Costello is the only fellow in the state with a rural law practice.