Trusts Estates and Wealth Preservation in the United States

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Overview

Estate planning is a very personal matter. It takes keen foresight to secure the preservation, and ensure the desired disposition, of assets accumulated over a lifetime. Dentons' Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation team has helped high net worth (HNW) and ultra-high net worth (UHNW) individuals and family offices, as well as individuals of moderate means, prepare for their future health care and financial needs, as well as the future needs of their family members and other beneficiaries.

Our experience includes trust and estate planning and administration, business succession planning, fiduciary accounting issues, will contests, contested accountings, guardianship matters, charitable planning, and estate- and trust-related litigation.

We also provide services at the intersection of asset protection and family law, including: valuation and protection of heritage assets; pre- and post-marital, civil partnership, anti-palimony, cohabitation and other domestic agreements; divorce (alimony, division of marital estate, and child support, custody and parent-time issues); paternity suits; guardianship and conservatorships; qualified domestic relation orders; and protective orders and stalking injunctions.

Family dynamics, particularly situations involving "modern" families or complicated family trees, require carefully considered, detailed estate plans that minimize the chance of fighting among heirs. While a standard last will & testament may be sufficient for some, our lawyers recognize that for most others, additional planning documents and mediation clauses may be needed to avoid future costly confrontations. When disputes arise, we have achieved successful resolution of highly emotional and contentious conflicts by giving full consideration to divergent views, differences of opinion, and conflicting needs and interests. And when litigation is unavoidable, we have successfully prosecuted or defended challenges to the validity or dispositive provisions of a trust or will, or actions against an executor, administrator or trustee.

Key service areas

- Business succession planning
- Conservatorships and guardianships
- Dealing with the IRS and state taxing authorities and tax litigation
- Divorce, including division of property, and spousal and child support
- Estate and fiduciary litigation
- Estate and income tax planning
- Estate and trust administration
- Estate and trust planning, including revocable living, irrevocable and charitable trusts
- Federal estate, gift and fiduciary income tax minimization
- Fiduciary accounting and contested accountings
- Living wills and durable powers of attorney

- Long-term care and special needs planning
- Nonprofits' current- and deferred-giving programs
- Planning for couples (married, unmarried, civil union, cohabiting and same-sex)
- Pre-nuptial, post-nuptial and other domestic contracts and enforcement
- Representation of banks and trust companies
- Representation of executors, administrators, personal representatives and trustees
- Solving estate- and trust-related problems
- Trust- and estate-related litigation, will contests and other issues

Your Key Contacts

United States

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