# TRUST & PROBATE LITIGATION

#### ISSUE I

We'd like to introduce you to the law firm of Hutchison & Steffen and the attorneys within our trust and probate litigation practice group. The Firm works closely with other trust and estate professionals to maximize clients' opportunities for successful resolution of disputes.

Trust and probate litigation is a highly-specialized area of law, often involving complex issues concerning trusts, estates, guardianships, taxes, and related matters at both the trial and appellate court levels. This newsletter provides an overview of how we work with trust and estate professionals when litigation is required. We invite you to contact the Firm to learn more. Get to know us now so you'll have a solid resource for future trust and probate matters and litigation.

> MARK A. HUTCHISON FOUNDING PARTNER

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## THE TRUST AND PROBATE LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen represents corporate and individual trustees, banks, investment professionals, executors, administrators, guardians, beneficiaries, and private individuals who are involved in disputes concerning estates and trusts. The Firm's practice includes will contests, disputes over the distribution of trust assets, interpretation of testamentary instruments and the application of relevant law, the allocation of estate tax burden, guardianships, and the modification of trusts.

Hutchison & Steffen's attorneys aggressively represent clients in a wide range of trust and probate litigation before probate, district, and federal courts in trial and on appeal. The Firm has successfully resolved disputes both in and out of court, and is experienced in litigating and resolving issues of undue influence, competency, fiduciary duties, and accounting. Cases run the full spectrum from million-dollar will contests to smaller family disputes.

### **Trust and Probate Litigation Services**

The attorneys at Hutchison & Steffen have extensive experience handling all aspects of trust and probate litigation. This Firm's practice includes the following types of legal matters, among others:

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HUTCHISON & STEFFEN

- Will and trust contests, which often involve claims that a will or trust was procured by undue influence or fraud
- Disputes over the distribution of trust or estate assets
- Trust reformations
- Guardianships
- Breach of fiduciary duty by a trustee or executor, and removal of the trustee or executor
- Disputes over the exercise of powers of attorney
- Real estate partition actions

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## When Litigation Is Necessary

Successful representation in these types of disputes requires not only the skills, instincts, and experience of the courtroom lawyer, but also fluency with the law of estates, trusts, charitable organizations, and wealth transfer taxation. Our team includes seasoned litigators and trial attorneys who regularly advise clients about litigation prevention techniques. When litigation is in our clients' best interests, the Firm's experienced team of trial attorneys aggressively enforces our clients' legal rights in court.

Hutchison & Steffen's trust and probate litigation practice group is comprised of attorneys with not only legal expertise, but also independent business, banking, and real estate experience. If litigation becomes unavoidable, the Firm's attorneys zealously represent our clients through well-planned and well-coordinated preparation and trial presentation.



Hutchison & Steffen is an AV-Rated, full-service law firm practicing in the following areas:



INTRODUCING:

## MARK J. CONNOT / PARTNER

Mark J. Connot is a partner of the Firm practicing in trust and probate litigation, among other areas of the law. He has served as lead counsel in over 35 jury and court trials, as well as second-chair in numerous jury trials, including significant trust and probate litigation. Mark works with a number of other Hutchison & Steffen attorneys within the trust and probate litigation practice group. He may be reached at 702.385.2500 or mconnot@hutchlegal.com.

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