

# TRUST & PROBATE LITIGATION NAVIGATOR

HUTCHISON & STEFFEN  
ATTORNEYS

ISSUE 22



## RUSSEL J. GEIST

PARTNER

Russel J. Geist practices primarily in the Firm's trust and probate litigation department, handling cases concerning will, trust, and probate disputes. In addition, he works with clients to facilitate asset protection and business planning and corporate transactions. Russel and other attorneys at the Firm work closely with clients' trust and estate planning professionals to maximize clients' opportunities for successful resolution of disputes.

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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:

- 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. ■

**For more information, please visit [hutchlegal.com](http://hutchlegal.com).**

*Situations involving family members can be trying and emotionally charged. The evidence required either proving or disproving a claim of undue influence turns on the quality of evidence and experienced legal counsel. The attorneys at Hutchison and Steffen are experienced in, and effective at, evaluating and pursuing vigorously a client's legal rights under a will and are effective in litigating and resolving issues regarding situations of undue influence. Cases run the full spectrum from million-dollar will contests to smaller family disputes.*



**NOTICE: THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT!**



HUTCHISON & STEFFEN IS AN  
AV-RATED, FULL-SERVICE LAW FIRM  
PRACTICING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Administrative & Regulatory Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Litigation
- Asset Protection & Business Planning
- Banking
- Bankruptcy & Creditor's Rights
- Business Law & Commercial Litigation
- Condemnation Law
- Constitutional Law
- Construction Law
- Corporate & Commercial Law
- Criminal Law
- Election, Campaign, & Political Law
- Employment & Labor Law
- Family Law
- Healthcare Professionals Advocacy
- Human Resources Support
- Insurance Litigation
- Landlord/Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Professional Liability Defense
- Public Entity Law
- Public Interest & Nonprofit Organizations
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Audits & Litigation
- Trust & Probate Litigation
- Worker's Compensation

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