

THE TRUST &amp; PROBATE LITIGATION

## NAVIGATOR

WHEN INHERITANCE LEADS TO


**Family** Feud

## Most families do not plan to go to court over a parent's estate

**T**hey plan to grieve, to honor a life, and to move forward. But as significant wealth transfers to the next generation, trust and probate litigation is increasing, and families are learning how quickly love can turn into suspicion.

It often starts quietly. A new relationship. A changed will. A caregiver who “helps with everything.” A sibling who asks one too many questions. Then, a small doubt becomes a fear. A fear becomes an accusation. And an accusation becomes a case number.

### THREE PATTERNS SURFACE AGAIN AND AGAIN:

A parent remarries and seems happy. Then, the estate plan changes. Adult children feel blindsided, betrayed, or dismayed. The spouse feels attacked. Everyone claims that he or she is defending the parent's true wishes. A caregiver becomes the gatekeeper. Phone calls are no longer returned. Visits become harder. Documents are inaccessible.

The family's anxiety grows, not only about money and care, but about whether their loved one is truly free to decide.

After death, siblings face paperwork and pressure. One person controls information. Another person feels shut out. Old resentments surface. What should have been a simple administration turns into a fight over fairness, trust, and truth.

This is why trust and probate litigation is rising: not because families are more contentious, but because of societal shifts and generational changes. Wealth is moving. Families are blended. People live longer. And estate plans, when unclear or modified late, can lead to varied and competing interpretations.

The goal should not be to “win” against family members. The goal is to protect the intent of the loved one who is leaving the inheritance, and at the same time reduce family disharmony and find a path to peaceful resolution.

**HUTCHISON & STEFFEN**  
ATTORNEYS



Peccole Professional Park  
10080 W. Alta Drive, Suite 200  
Las Vegas, NV 89145



©HUTCHISON & STEFFEN

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Las Vegas, NV  
Permit No. 2470

NOTICE: THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT!

## FAMILIES CAN LOWER THE RISK OF A FEUD BY:

- **Updating trust and estate documents as life changes.**
- **Documenting decisions and changes in decisions clearly.**
- **Choosing trusted professionals who will maintain records and communicate clearly.**
- **Acting early when something seems amiss.**

Nevertheless, when conflicts arise, as they may despite best efforts to avoid them, legal expertise and experience are essential to understanding the best ways to address disputes over inheritance issues.



**MARK A. HUTCHISON**  
FOUNDER



**TODD L. MOODY**  
PARTNER



**STEWART C. FITTS**  
PARTNER



**JOSEPH J. POWELL**  
PARTNER



**BAXTER L. WILDE**  
ASSOCIATE

The skilled and experienced attorneys at Hutchison & Steffen are passionate about navigating complex trust and estate disputes and litigation, regularly representing trustees, executors, beneficiaries, and other principals in both litigation and out-of-court disputes involving allegations of misdeeds or misconduct. By working closely with clients' legal and financial professionals, the Firm ensures a collaborative approach designed to maximize the opportunity for a successful resolution.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- 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
- 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
- Workers' Compensation

### Las Vegas

Peccole Professional Park  
10080 W. Alta Drive, Suite 200  
Las Vegas, NV 89145  
702.385.2500  
Fax 702.385.2086

### Reno

100 W. Liberty Street,  
Suite 765  
Reno, NV 89501  
775.853.8746  
Fax 775.201.9611

info@hutchlegal.com • hutchlegal.com